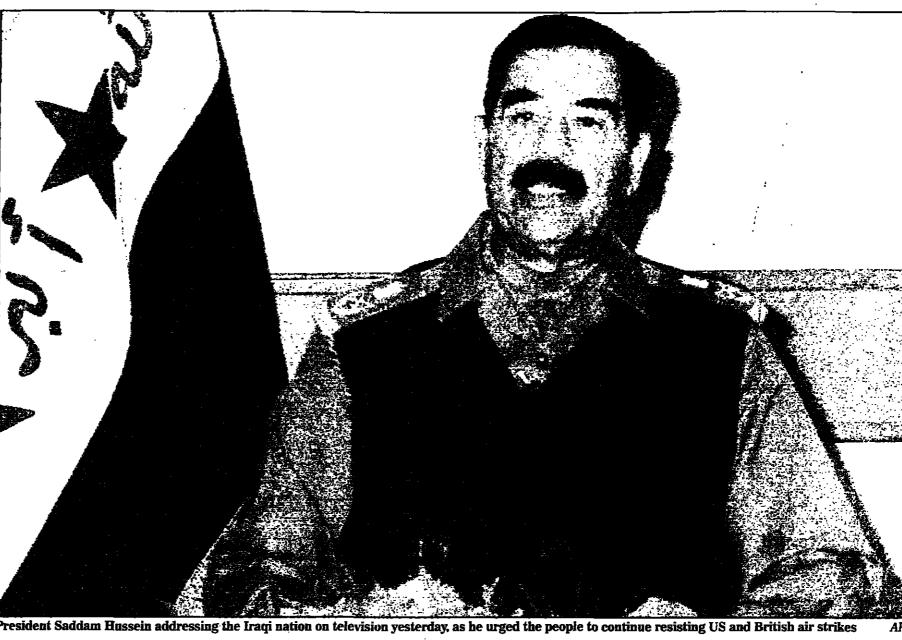
THE INDEPENDENT

FOLLOW BRITAIN'S TOP TIPSTER

THE LAWSUIT **AFTER THE NIGHT BEFORE**

ESLER • HOWARD JACOBSON • TRACEY MACLEOD • ANNA PAVORD • JER

Saddam refuses to back down as the war planes hit again



owards America and Britain in Baghdad yesterday as air raids continued ANDREW MARSHALL into a third night. The raids have in Washington been by far the most extensive since the Gulf War, involving hundreds of cruise missiles targeted on dozens of sites.

The Iraqi dictator said that under no circumstances would he back down, despite the attacks on the most critical structures of his regime. "By God, we not compromise," he said taped Iraqi television address. "A curse on the agents of Satan ... We will fear nothing but God and we will not kneel

except to the face of God." It was the first time President Saddam had spoken to Iraqis since the bombing started three days ago.

Against a background of wailing air-raid sirens Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, said last night that Britain was a rat following behind the American elephant.

Mr Aziz hinted that United ations weapons inspectors would not be allowed to return. He said Richard Butler, the head of Unscom, would never return to Irag, and accused

ADDAM HUSSEIN was defiant By PATRICK COCKBURN AND COLIN BROWN in London

> ton. "There was co-ordination by the US government and Butler about the content of the report and the timing of the report," said Mr Aziz at a Baghdad news conference. "This is not a military conflict. This is a criminal aggression by the US and Britain Baghdad itself was calm but

> apprehensive yesterday. It was a Friday, a holiday, but the streets were empty away from the central markets. The mood of people is resigned, almost detached, believing that there is nothing they can do to affect the course of events. "They will hit us again and again and again. said one Iraqi, spreading his hands in despair.

Representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) yesterday visited two Baghdad hospitals and saw 40 people wounded by the raids. The ICRC could not confirm any figures for the number of civilians killed or

wounded in the raids. Iraq says with 75 wounded. It says that homes, factories, a pharmacy college and a museum have been hit as well as other military targets. It also claims to have shot down 77 of the in-

threat that he poses to the re-

gion and to the world."

and 19 security facilities. on the Special Republican Guard, one of the main military props to the regime. It is detailed to guard the leadership, its of southern Iraq, where an up-

that 25 people have died so far

coming cruise missiles. Britain and America pledged to press on with the attacks, and claimed the air strikes were achieving their short-term goals. "I believe we are on course to achieve our military objectives," Tony Blair said last night. "There is no doubt we are significantly damaging Saddam Hussein's military capability and reducing ... the

and a list of targets put out by the Iraqi opposition, there has been a particular concentration

■ Baghdad settles into war routine

The Pentagon set out the most detailed list of targets so far, saying it had hit 11 sites linked to Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, five airfields

Judging by the US briefing

■ Moscow fury sparks new cold war page 2

■ Military targets: now it's personal page 4 **E 'End Iraq's agony' - Letters** Review, page 2

■ Gavin Esler; leading article Review, page 3

homes and offices and maintain internal security.

The US has also crippled a that was used for oil exports, hitting Iraq's ability to export oil to pay for food. William Cohen. the US Defense Secretary, said: With respect to the facility in Basra, that is a very limited attack on a facility that provides for the illegal shipment of oil." Iraq is also allowed to export oil legally under a UN scheme, and the damage to the Basra in-

economic recovery. Underscoring their desire to remove President Saddam, US aircraft were also reported to have dropped propaganda leaflets in the mainly Shia areas

rising in 1991 was brutally put

down after the Gulf War. RAF Tornados were in ackey oil installation near Basra tion once again last night. On Thursday night, they attacked a base where Iraq was alleged to be developing pilotless aircraft to drop chemical and biological weapons. The Ministry of Defence released film of a Tornado destroying a hangar, hitting a surface-to-air missile site and attacking a radio mast.

According to reports from the region, the aerial campaign stallation will severely set back is being managed from a joint operations command room at a Saudi airbase south of Riyadh, though Saudi Arabia has not permitted its bases to be used for actual sorties.

> More cruise missiles have been launched than during the

day of the offensive coming to an end. George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence, hinted that bombing could be resumed even if it was suspended for the Muslim holy month of Ramadan which begins tonight, "We're not going away," he said. "We have got to be prepared for a long stay. But in the meantime this week we will have caused a huge amount of dam-

age to his military regime." Both Britain and America have launched a diplomatic offensive to shore up support for the military strikes. "Even if some people don't agree with the military action, they understand why it is necessary to be sure that Saddam Hussein is kept in his cage, because if he is allowed out of his cage, he is a danger to the world," the Prime Minister said at a Downing Street press conference.

Mr Blair also wrote a 1,000word article for the European press after criticism from France and the withdrawal by Russia of its ambassadors to London and Washington. "We

Gulf War, with about 290 being act to counter a real and prefired since Wednesday. How- sent danger from a tyrant who hard Schröder, the German ever, there was no sign yester- has never hesitated to use Chancellor, Jacques Chirac whatever weapons come to hand," he wrote. Echoing his statement to the

Commons, Mr Blair said President Saddam had never kept his word. "The risk he poses is real. not theoretical. What happens once the military action is over depends at least as much on Saddam as it does on us. I hope he will finally come to his senses."

The effort to hold together Western support for the military action was reinforced in tele-

AUSTRALIA

phone calls by Mr Blair to Gerthe French President, Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister, and Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, according to Downing Street. He was also due to speak to Crown Prince Abdullah, first Deputy Prime

Minister of Saudi Arabia. Mr Blair prepared public opinion for casualties. Saying the decision to attack had been with great regret, he added: "There will be casualties in Iraq, despite all our efforts.

39p thailand SOUTH AFRICA HONG KONG 13p BARBADOS NEW ZEALAND

13p SINGAPORE

Republicans interpreted media reports of their Speaker-elect's adultery - and his subsequent CHILE admission - as evidence that

had been rejoined, and might be a struggle to the death. The White House seems to be preparing for the next, and last, fight: the trial in the Senate. Mrs Clinton, a respected

perts and historians. If they go down, it seems, the Clintons will go down fighting

Bitter wrangles, page 5

Hillary appeals as impeachment starts background, a televisual mes-SCORNING THE pleas of Demo- By Mary Dejevsky Asked after an unrelated in Washington event to comment on the course sage if ever there was one, crats, the Republican majority of impeachment, she said: "The that the White House would let in the House of Representative: vast majority of Americans the constitutional process take yesterday railroaded through fore engaging for an uproarious its course, but was fighting on. the opening of the debate to and bitter debate. share my approval and pride in Mr Clinton was conducting impeach President Bill Clin-The mood of the House,

alternately grave and raucous, on, a confrontation they have lusted after for months. abject and combative, seemed to guarantee a vote for Republicans, whose mood had already been soured by impeachment today. The White House kept an Democrats' attempts to postinsouciant distance, but looked pone the debate, arrived baying powerless to halt the momenfor blood and in no mood for compromise. They booed and

tum for impeachment. yelled as Democrats tried for a The only intervention was new delay, citing the national the half-hearted deployment of its weapon of last resort, the interest, and calmed down only First Lady, Hillary Clinton. She for the formal reading of the four articles of impeachment broke a week of silence to call perjury (twice), obstruction of for "reconciliation" to end the "divisiveness" in the country. justice and abuse of power - bethe job the President has been doing for our country.

"I think in this holiday season, as we celebrate Christmas and Hanukkah and Ramadan, it's time for reflection and reconciliation among people, we ... ought to practise reconciliation and we ought to bring our country together. We ought to end divisiveness, because we can do so much more together."

Mrs Clinton's apparently unscripted remarks were coolshe has offered in support of her white dome of the Capitol in the



her silence yesterday husband, but the choreography

was significant. She spoke outside the White er and less personal than some House, with the glistening

The previous day the White House spokesman had said Congress had its priorities and the White House had its, and they were different. However, it also let slip that the political

himself as he has done since the

start of the impeachment crisis,

attending to matters of state -

now dominated by the assault

on Iraq - and staying above the

consulting constitutional extruce that had prevailed during and together. the day-long postponement of the debate was at an end. And

16D PORTUGAL FALKLANDISLES 350 battle for the moral low ground FREE CALLS WHEN YOU RE-CHARGE! lawyer who took part in the congressional investigation of NO LIRE CHANGE President Richard Nixon 24 years ago, was reported to be REQUIRED CHANGE REGISTED The fastest growing telecommunications carrier in the world' Communications Week International Call free on 0800 036 0001 All prices shown are inclusive of VAT, are in pence per minute, and have been rounded to the nearest penny. Calls are charged for the first twelve seconds; there after in sixty second microments. Calls from payphones and mobile phones may be subject to a suicharge "Free call bonus is subject to an initial minimum spend of £35 and is rewarded every time you re-charge a minimum of £35 therefore 27.4.98 are excluded from this promotion. Please call for full details.

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୍ଥା∌େ⊕

Moscow fury sparks off a new cold war

RUSSIAN PROTEST

RUSSIA'S RELATIONS with the West were yesterday gripped by one the sharpest frosts since the end of the Cold War after Moscow withdrew its ambassador to Britain "for consultations" in a protest against the air strikes against Iraq.

The move, which followed the recall of Russia's envoy to Washington, came amid a second day of angry and indignant declarations from Moscow, including a threat to reassess its entire security strategy.

The Prime Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, declared that the bombardment of Iraq "violates the entire world order established after the Second World War". And Russia's ascendant Communists, the largest force in parliament, confirmed they had no intention of considering the ratification of the Start-2 arms-reduction treaty.

Western diplomats were vespolitical damage done by Operation Desert Fox to the armsreduction process - Start-2, after faltering signs of life, is now dead in the water - and to their efforts to end the distrust that surrounds Moscow's relations with Nato.

"Unfortunately, things will now stagnate," said one. Evidence of that came when Russia's Defence Minister, Marshal Igor Sergeyev, decided not to

By PHIL REEVES in Moscow

attend a meeting of the Nato-Russia Permanent Council, dispatching a less senior official in

However, the Kremlin needs the West, and it knows it. It tacitty acknowledged the weakness of its position by emphasising that there was no question of severing relations with the United States and Britain. The row over Iraq must not be allowed to "slide into confrontation," said a spokesman.

The withdrawal of Yuri Fokin, Moscow's ambassador to London, marks the first such occasion since the Soviet Union pulled out its envoy in 1971 in a tit-for-tat spy row in which Britain expelled 105 Soviet diplomats.

The Foreign Office yesterday sought to play down Russia's terday gloomily surveying the outrage, saying that Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, had a "friendly" conversation with his Russian counterpart,

> Both the British and the Americans expressed confidence that the relationship with Russia - already chilled by the new government of Mr Primakey and the current economic melt-down – would

To the apparent puzzlement

of Washington, the Russians have also responded to the Iraq crisis by moving troops and placing some military installations on heightened alert.

The US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, said the purpose of the troop movements was unclear, although the Kremlin explained them as ened international tensions.

In reality, Russia is in a bind. It feels genuinely aggrieved by the US and Britain's decision to bypass the UN Security Council - one of the few forums in which Moscow feels it has a measure of the diplomatic weight it enjoyed in Soviet times. In this case, its highly coveted status as one of five permanent members has proved next to worthless.

It also has plenty of reasons to speak up for Saddam Hussein. Moscow has already signed dozens of lucrative contracts, including weapons sales, with Baghdad which will kick in once UN sanctions are lifted. fraq also owes it about \$8bn in Soviet-era debts, which the impoverished Russians would dearly love to bank

For the same reason, Moscow hopes that its current toyalty – a follow-on from the era in which thousands of Soviet engineers and advisers worked in Iraq - will be repaid



Russian ultra-nationalists, one with a portrait of President Saddam Hussein, protest at the American embassy in Moscow yesterday EPA

with some fat deals, notably in ample, with the Arab world the oil and construction sector, when the day arrives when a sanctions-free Baghdad finally begins to rebuild.

And it will be also looking for some international diplomatic gains - stronger ties, for ex- well knows - is also acutely for Yuri Maslyukov, First

which will allow it to further its general policy of challenging US supremacy and pushing for a multi-polar" international po-

litical environment. Yet Russia – as the Pentagon

States and the West, particularly after the precipitous economic collapse that began in

Telling evidence of that came yesterday when an aide hole in next year's budget.

aware that it needs the United Deputy Prime Minister, said the Iraq crisis should not affect Russia's current talks with the International Monetary Fund, from which Moscow needs funds if it is to avoid a gaping

With equal eagerness, offi-

cials said that negotiations with Washington over a \$850m food-aid deal were proceeding as planned, despite the bombing raids. It seems that Russia is prepared to bark at the hand that feeds it, but it is un-

Blair seeks support from European allies

CHINA RAGED, France again By RUPERT CORNWELL signalled its disapproval. Germany bit its tongue, and Tony Blair mounted a diplomatic offensive across Europe in order to shore up wavering support for the intensifying British and President Saddam Hussein of

By last night no other country had followed Russia's dramatic example and withdrawn its ambassadors from London and Washington in protest at the attacks. But in Europe, where limit-

ed demonstrations against the bombing took place outside

United States embassies in Denmark and the Netherlands, the most telling reaction was the sheer lack of it.

Finding nothing good to say American air strikes against about the raids, the only alternative for most of America's traditional European allies was to say nothing.

Such, in effect, was the approach of the German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, who declared tersely - and in defiance of the evidence - that he saw "no danger of a split" in the alliance over the attacks.

Pressed, he refused to elab-

Thursday, that President Saddam had brought his latest troubles on himself by not cooperating with the United Nations weapons inspectors.

In a 1,000-word article for papers in several European coun-inspector, Richard Butler, believe, risks increasing suptries, Mr Blair argued that London and Washington had acted as they had "to counter a real and present danger from a tyrant who has never hesitated to use whatever weapons come to hand".

He also spoke by phone with the leaders of France, Germany and Italy and with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

LIGHTING UP

DIPLOMACY

not convinced, and made clear yesterday both its unhappiness merely increase the hardships with the report by the chief UN of ordinary Iraqis. It also, they which triggered this week's port for President Saddam strikes, and its view that the West had to define an entire something that is already hapnew Iraq policy.

As the evening paper France-Soir demanded "Stop Him" in a banner front-page headline above a picture of President Bill Clinton, both President Jacques Chirac and

France, however, is plainly Vedrine, warned the bombardment would solve nothing but throughout the Arab world pening if demonstrations in several Arab capitals yesterday

were anything to go by. "The international community must find a global and long-term strategy to deal with Iraq," President Chirac's his foreign minister, Hubert spokeswoman said, though of aroused by the strikes within

ficials in Paris readily admit there is no obvious one to hand. 'ments. There is, by contrast, absolutely no doubt about the misgivings over the Butler report.

The Foreign Ministry declined to go as far as the newspaper Liberation, which quoted led coalitions. UN diplomats in support of charges that Mr Butler had deliberately slanted his findings against Iraq.

But, the Quai d'Orsay said, the report was "vague" and "raised many questions".

Another reason for the edginess of many European governments is the divisions

in socialist and social-democrat-With the French Greens and Communists demanding out- instantly and instinctively.

Italy has already demanded

a halt to the raids, and in both

France and Germany the Com-

right condemnation of the raids, Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, called them Blair's recent call for a separate "inevitable but unnecessary".

Germany's Green Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer, meanwhile underlined that the divisions which had already

ruling left-of-centre govern- need for a common European foreign policy. Europe, he said, was em-

barking on a "very difficult discussion process-one though munists and Greens take part ... be was too diplomatic to say so, that will have been made no easier by Britain once again

Its approach can only cast doubt on the sincerity of Mr European defence identity, a concept embraced after some hesitation by Paris at the St Male summit, but which, already appears to have been surfaced only heightened the honoured in the breach.

BRITAIN TODAY Noon today

FORECAST

General situations: A rather chilly day, especially in the brisk breeze. Showers will move in off the west coast of England and Wales. Towards the east coast it will also be showery, the showers turning increasingly whitny in the north. However, some inland areas will stay dry and bright all day. Sheltered parts of southern Scotland may also stay dry with sumy spells, but elsewhere in Scotland there will be sleet and snow showers. Northern Ireland will also be very cold with some wintry cheepers.

London, SE England, East Anglia, E England: Turning cold as any remaint or the standard standard standard specific and showers. A fresh north-westerly wind. Max temp 6-BC (43-46F). Cent S England, Midiands: Colder than recently with occasional showers but also a few sunny spells. A moderate north-westerly wind, Max temp 6-7C (43-45F).

N Ireland: Wintry showers breaking out, but there will be a few bright spells, especially in the south-east. A fresh north-westerly wind. Max temp 4-6C (39-43F).

it will turn even colder tomorrow as further wintry showers affect the east coast. In the west it will be generally dry and bright, After a widespread overnight frost, Monday will see rain moving eastwards across the country. This will be preceded by snow over the mountains and hills.

London: A41 Finchley Rd. From Swiss Cottage to Fortune Green. Major works at Finchley Rd Gynstory. Until 31st Docember.
Carabridgeshire A1 between Alconbury and Haddon. Construction, lane closures and contration. Until 31st December. Buckledpharashire: NAU between junctions 1a (M25) & 3 (Wycombe East). Three narrow lanes both ways and a 50 mph speed finit in force. Until 1st January 1999.
Bristot: M5 J18-19. Major Roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge. Until 1st January 2001. Lanteashire: M6 Between J27 Standarl and 28 Leyland. Roadworks; contration and a 28 Leyland. Roadworks; contration and

8.13an 8.13an 8.45an 8.03an 8.22an HIGH TIDES

AIR QUALITY

SUN & MOON

WEATHERLINE



YESTERDAY

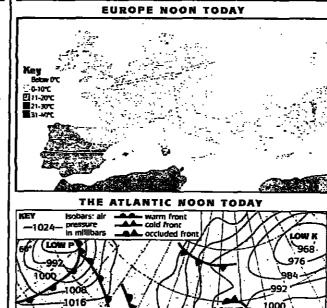
EXTREMES Warmest: Isles of Scilly 12C (5AF) Coldest (day): Belfast 5C (41F) st: Elgim 7.0 hrs For 24hrs to 2pm Friday

0 0.02 0 0.04 0 0.48 0 0.10 1.2 0

COME RAIN OR SHINE...

AS WINTER draws in, the homeless facing a Christmas sleeping rough were given a boost by the Government. which last night announced an extra 540 emergency beds in hostels around the country.

The extra accommodation to see them through the worst of the weather will be in Lon-don, Bristol, Brighton and Cambridge, said junior environment minister Nick Raynsford, and will remain open until the end of March.



THE WORLD

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Wave of anger across Gulf

ARAB REACTION

ALL ACROSS the Arab world BY ROBERT FISK yesterday, British diplomats in Beirut were sending back to London reports which totally contradicted what Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, has been telling the British people. In their summaries and press digests, ambassadors have been telling the Foreign Office of the rage, fury, frustration and humiliation of the Arabs in the face of the attack on Iraq.

Mr Cook maintains that while reaction is "muted", most Arab regimes support the bom-bardment. But in Cairo, the ambassador will have told his masters of demonstrations at the al-Azhar mosque where the imam told his people to support Iraq or "be struck by God's damnation" and where hundreds demanded a holy war

The British embassy in Abu Dhabi will have recorded the words of the official spokesman of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, the ruler of the United Arab Emirates, who referred to the "terrible operation" as "beyond comprehension and ... unacceptable".

Our diplomats in Damascus will have sent back accounts of remarks by Abdul-Kader Qaddoura, speaker of the Syrian partiament, who said: "We condemn and denounce this attack and call on the international community to halt it."

In Qatar, one of the only Arab Gulf states to open relations with Israel, the daily newspaper Asharq said that American missiles were "targeting unarmed Iraqi civilians, showing that human conscience is dead. The missiles,

loaded with hatred, are ruthlessly bringing death and devastation to a dear Arab nation". In Beirut - diplomats will have read the editorial in the daily as-Safir, whose columnist Mohamed Mashmoushi sug-

ican talk about "respect for the sensitivities of Muslims" at Ramadan was a pretext to trample upon Muslim land. Most newspaper editorials in the Arab world assumed that the Anglo-American attack meant the end of all future UN weapons inspections. Ghassan Tueni, the joint owner of an-Nahar newspaper in Beirut, lamented the weakness of the

gested that British and Amer-

Arab world in confronting the bombardment of Iraq. "If we want to dream," he wrote, "there's nothing to prevent Syria and Jordan declaring their desire to enter a pact or alliance with Iraq."

Jordan and Egypt - Washington's principle Arab "friends" in the Middle East - sent state security police onto the streets of Amman and Cairo to prevent demonstrations. Only in Kuwait could one hear the sort of anger Mr Cook would have us believe

represents the Arab world. Fouad al-Hashem, a columnist for the Kuwaiti daily al-Waton, wrote that he wished to see the bodies of Saddam Hussein, his wife and sons "hanging naked from street lamps all over Baghdad". One wonders how the British embassy in Kuwait rendered that senti-

The missiles come so close you feel the warm gust of air on your face

BAGHDAD ASSAULT

BY PATRICK COCKBURN

BY DAYLIGHT they looked like large black aerial torpedoes moving surprisingly slowly towards their target. By night they are invisible until they explode. They are the cruise missiles which have been falling on Baghdad for two days, sending fire into the air.

Already war in Iraq has its routine. The first warning of an attack is the howling of the airraid sirens. The United States and Britain say they have wiped out Irag's air defences, but some radar must still be operating because the sirens are usually right in predicting an attack.

The streets start emptying in the Iraqi capital soon after dark. This is a city where life is aditionally nocturnal. Shops and restaurants stay open late. No more. Even in districts like the mixed Christian-Muslim neighbourhood of Karada. which is known for its night life, most shops put up their metal gratings at an early hour. There are still cars in the streets but they drive fast and ignore traffic lights.

Some minutes after the sirens sound come the first specks of anti-aircraft fire. Red balls of fire drift upwards slowly. Then the anti-aircraft shells burst into flecks of white light. There is little tracer fire, though occasionally you hear the rattle of a Kalashnikov 💃 chine-gun, as if an Iraqi was firing into the air in frustration.

It is not like the V1s which hit London in 1944. There is no sound from the incoming rockets. The anti-aircraft fire weaves uncertainly across the sky, as if the gunners were unsure of their aim, and a ball of light expands on the horizon as the missile strikes.

ings in Baghdad are illuminated by the flash. Then, depending on the distance from the explosion, e is the crash of the rock-

This is a televisual war. The camera crews, gathered on the roof of the Iraqi Ministry of Inwhat is happening. Their night

s look even more spectacular than they really are. Most of the missiles are



An woman making her way through the remains of her relative's villa in the Al Adel district of Bagbdad yesterday. The house was hit during Thursday's air strike AFP

dustry Ministry near the Al-Rashid hotel.

The "surgical strikes" are not as surgical as the Ministry of Defence in London, or the Pentagon in Washington, make them sound. One missile landed on a substantial house in the Hail Adel district, For a moment the tall build- sending shrappel into the head of Dr Jallim Geylan, a wealthy

We saw him later in hospital warm gust of air from the blast. were in another hospital. Dr with him in hospital. In a large a few farmers wearing the head formation on the banks of the aiming at. It seemed more like- beside family members, while river Tigris, provide a graphic ly that the rocket was off the hospital staff manhandled

vision equipment, amplifying missile attack is not only a ambient light, makes the ex- matter of the dead and wounded. In the middle of the mixed with blood on the floor. night we went to see the Baghdad Teaching Hospital, a vast Muslim country so most shops falling on the outskirts of the complex. It had not suffered a were shut. The vast market in city. But the centre is also being direct hit but an explosion had Shurjah in the centre of the city

hit. One fell on the Military In- blown in the windows and brought down some ceilings. Treading gingerly through the shattered glass windows on the ground floor we went downstairs into a warren of grim halls and passages under the hospital which serves as its bomb shelter. Since the Iranlraq war in the 1980s, all big buildings in Baghdad have shelters.

One man with a bloody banwrapped in a green blanket. His was being moved downstairs by sister was sitting beside him. doctors. In Iraq, a member of In a normally busy restaurant Geylan's house is in a residen- tunnel deep underground tial district, so it is difficult to women in traditional black the Iraqi countryside. Only two see what the bombers were cloaks were crouched around but somewhat deceptive view of course, or had been shot down. big, black bottles of oxygen The misery caused by the into the shelter. It had not been used for some time and water dripped from the ceiling and

Fridays are holidays in this

Everything was on sale - spring clothes, rice, carpets, radios and second-hand pieces of equipment. In one part of the market,

dogs as pets or for guard duty. But elsewhere in Baghdad it was clear that Iraqis thought it safer to stay at home, even dage and a stump for a right leg though there have been no raids in the middle of the day. dresses and traditional robes of

people were buying and selling

songbirds, which the Iragis

often have in their homes. In

another street, traders sold

proprietor in despair. In Soukh al Sori, the book market, intellectuals come on Friday to sell old volumes for a few dinars. The books are often

other tables were occupied.

"What do you expect?" said the

An Iraqi acquaintance, walking in the market said: "Things

gave an effect of normality. being hit by rockets. Saddam will be stronger after this."

This is not quite a true reflection of what Iraqis generally feel. Another Iraqi said: "Iraqis fear that a game is being played over which they have no interest. They feel they are always the victims, whether it is sanctions or bombs. The forfeit is horrible. Young and old people feel frightened, but in a way we are used to it. Just staying alive takes a lot of effort here.

It is also not quite as dan-

Refineries were destroyed and there was no petrol in a country which has some of the biggest oil reserves in the world. None of this has happened

gerous or devastating as the

Gulf War. Then the allies de-

stroyed the city's power station

on the first flight, dropping

metallic strands on the power

lines to fuse the wires. The

telecommunication towers

disappeared entirely and the

telephones ceased to work.

petrol stations in the first day of the bombing but these have largely disappeared. The government has not introduced petrol rations. Curiously the dinar has slipped in value only slightly against the dollar, indicating that Iraqi moneychangers do not think this economy, crippled by eight years of sanctions, is finally going to collapse.

Nothing angers ordinary Iragis more than to hear that this time. There were queues at they are not suffering from

real malnutrition because of international sanctions. Dr Al Bayauni, a scientist, said yesterday that he had just heard Tony Blair claim Iraq was a food exporter. "What do we export except a few dates?" he said

But although the bombing is not as bad as 1990-1991, Iraq is weaker than it was. Malnutrition rates are close to those of impoverished Mali in Africa. according to United Nations humanitarian workers. The limited export of oil since 1996 has brought in more food but has not brought down the death rate among children because the infrastructure has collapsed. In much of the country clean water can no longer be pumped, so people drink straight from the rivers.

A problem for Britain and America is that they want at all costs to prevent pilots being captured by Iraq. Therefore they rely heavily on missiles rather than piloted aircraft. These look impressive on television and are effective against large, fixed targets. But these targets are not at the heart of the Iraqi government. So far, at least, the United States and Britain have been carefulabout what they hit. The fact that Baghdad is not suffering missile strikes during the daytime means that people are at home when most of the damage is done.

If daytime raids begin, the casualties will immediately go up. But the lesson of the Gulf War is that for all the vaunted accuracy of missiles in the use of allied fire power against a heavily inhabited city - Baghdad has 3.5 million people but there are 5.5 million in its metropolitan area - it usually ends in disaster. In 1991, the allies hit the Amariyia shelter in the city. killing 400 people. Most of them were women and children.

Cruise missiles and "smart" bombs are an attempt to win a war on the cheap. The missiles themselves are expensive, but because they allow the US and Britain to attack without any casualties to their own side, they are politically cheap. The problem is that they are unlikely to achieve their aims.

'Iraq will be victorious... A curse on the agents of Satan'

SADDAM'S **SPEECH**

IN HIS five minute address to the nation on television yesterday, his first since the air strikes began, Saddam Hussein said that "By God we will not compromise or kneel" in the showdown with the United States and

"Continue vour resistance and, by God's will, you will be victorious," he said. "You are representing justice and all the vet characteristics against in-lice."

Dressed in field marshal's uniform, the President spoke of the air strikes that have killed at least 25 people and wounded another 75. "You, great Iraqi people, you have raised high the Iraqi flag and you have proved again that you are heroic," he said. "Continue your resistance, and the criminals are doomed. In the name of God, strike them.

"By God, we will not compromise or kneel in the face of injustice. We will not let evil triumph over virtue."

the Iraqi armed forces and the air defence troops.

The air defence forces were "Iraq's high wall in the face of barbarism", he said. "We stand and doomed are our enemies." against the barbaric way of those that have used our airer to launch an aggression against our people. A curse on the agents of Satan.



Tariq Aziz branded air strikes a 'criminal violation' and said they could not last

"Long live great Iraq, the At a news conference in Minister, Tariq Aziz, branded

"Iraq will be victorious. God such an attack could be sus- gression are limited, they are damns them. Shame will be tained for more than a few not the same resources that their fate, those followers of days. "This is not a military con- they assembled in the aggres-The President paid tribute to Satan and evil. We will fear flict. This is a criminal aggresnothing but God and we will not sion by the US and Britain. It's kneel except to the face of God." a criminal violation of the charter of the United Nations."

He said President Bill Clinton and Tony Blair had used "lies and fabrications to justify Baghdad, Iraq's Deputy Prime a crime that cannot be justified". He added: "The reality is

sion of 1991.

"They cannot throw 200 missiles every day for a whole month. It may be one, two, three or four days but it will not go on, with these resources, for a very long period."

He said the decision to time the attacks close to the start of the air strikes a "criminal vio- that the resources that they the holy month of Ramadan was lation" and said he doubted have assembled for this ag- "an insult to Arabs".

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FOOTBALL

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nb damage as reported by the osition Iraqi Broadcasting Carporation:

Mukhabarat Home of Saddam's daughter Hala destroyed: main Presidential Palace complex hit. Headquarters of the Special Security dquarters of Military Intelligence, heav

Headquarters of the Special Republican Industrial City, near Baghdad, hit.

Rashid Airbase, attacked. At Taji Camp (20 km north of Baghdad). 13 At rai camp (20 km hord or bagndad). 13 different targets attacked - among them several weapons facilities, units of the Republican Guard, and main repair shops of the Iraqi Army Armoured Corps.

Baath Party Academy, Al Zeltoun Steet

damaged. Civilian target in Al Karada district hit. Weapons factories south, southwest and southeast (Mahmoudia and Al Youseffa) hit in second raid on Thursday. Rashidiya, main base of the Northern Corps of the Republican Guard. Weapons facilities

Ten offices of the Mukhabarat secret police.



Al Hasouwa Camp (west of Baghdad Republican Guard base and Al Suwewira, main base of Republican Guard Southern Corps both hit. Northern Iraq Tikrit (Saddam's home city)

Main grain silo destroyed. Al Bakr Airbase hit.

in Tikrit, Bayji and Samarra, destroyed.
Jebel Makhoul (40 km north of Tikrit), site containing nuclear and chemical facilities, a headquarters of the Special Republican Guard, and palace of Saddam hit.
Iraqi Army Tank Training Ground north of

Al Salamiya district hit.

Al-Adnaniya, HQ of the Seventh Division of the Iraqi Army hit. Al-Hamidaniya, the HQ of the Baghdad Division of the Republican Guard hit.

Western Iraq Al Walid Alrbase (250 km NW of Baghdad near Baghdadi town and Tahmouz Airbase near Habaniyya were hit. Southern Iraq
Basra olf refinery hit. Tallii Airfield hit by RAF.



Aim to destabilise Saddam's security,

DETAILED ANALYSIS of the BY ANDREW MARSHALL West's targets in Iraq suggest Britain and America are no longer content to weaken Saddam's military capacity. Experts believe they are also trying to threaten his very regime.

The targeting of Saddam's daughter's house, the barracks of the Special Republican Guard and military intelligence headquarters reveal that Operation Desert Fox has become distinctly personal.

"The policy of Britain and America has undergone a seachange," said Professor Paul Rogers, of Bradford University's department of peace studies. "It is no longer satisfied with trying to contain Saddam."

Information released yesterday by the Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation, the media arm of the opposition Iraqi National Congress, detailed the security and military targets across Iraq which had been hit in the first two nights of bombing.

in Washington. ANDREW BUNCOMBE AND JOHN DAVISON

by Britain and the US concentrated on airfields, radar sites and conventional military bases. Two key airfields - at Rashid, near Baghdad, and Mosul were hit early, as were Republican Guard bases, armoured units and army headquarters.

This was all in the line with the West's repeatedly stated intention of the operation, namely to "degrade" Saddam's capacity to make "weapons of mass destruction" and to reduce the military threat he poses to his neighbours.

At a briefing yesterday, the Defence Secretary, George Robertson, repeated this line saying that failure to comply with UN resolutions will lead to continued attacks and tightening of sanctions. "The policy is based on a very simple, clear

away," he said. "We have a clear long-term strategy. Until he complies fully we will not withdraw the threat of further military action without warning." But behind the soundbites.

repeated at times like a mantra, there lurks a far more radical intention on the part of the West. Messed around repeatedly for seven years, taken to the brink too many times by the master of brinkmanship, it appears the West - or at least some members of the West have had enough of Saddam

The MoD was keen to stress yesterday that all of the locations attacked over the past three days were legitimate military targets.

General Sir Charles Guthrie, chief of the defence staff, stressed that all the targets had been selected with great care. We have had eight years since the Gulf War to identify the key targets," he said. "Our aim is

THE MILITARY ANALYSIS

but to cripple them by hitting these key points." But analysis of the sites

shows that is not the full picture. Tim Trevan, a former spokesman for Unscom, the UN commission whose job has been to uncover Saddam's weapons of mass destruction, said: "The sites chosen are very apposite to Britain and America's aims. They have chosen the airbases and military headquarters to reduce Saddam's capacity to wage war, but there have also been

He pointed out that the coalition had also bombed the house of Saddam's daughter, Hala. This was intended to psychologically damage him, in much the same way as the 1985 bombers of Libya targeted Colonel Gaddafi's daughter.

other targets."

Likewise the attacks on the

quarters of the Special Security Organisation - both organisations key to Saddam's personal security - were designed to undermine his safety both psychologically and in reality, he said.

According to the IBC, the headquarters of the Iraqi Intelligence Service was also hit. The IIS, or Mukhabarat, is probably the most important of Iraq's intelligence organisations, spying and mounting covert operations abroad, and maintaining a guard against subversion at home. Ten other offices of the Mukhabarat were hit across the city.

The US also hit the Special Security Service, or Al Amn Al Khas, whose primary duty is the close protection of key members of the Baath party.

The heaviest damage, how-

Republican Guard. This unit, some 25,000 strong, holds the seys to the regime. As well as functioning as an

elite combat unit, it is responsible for guarding the President, his family and their homes, key strategic locations, and maintaining security. Indeed, if the IBC reports are

correct, then perhaps a dozen different locations of the SRG have been hit. They were, apparently, targeted in the first wave of strikes, on Wednesday, indicating that the US hoped to have caught the SRG unaware. with its members sleeping. Amongst units that seem to

have been hit from the First Brigade, which is largely charged with security duties, are the First Battalion, which escorts Saddam's motorcades and operates 150 Mercedes, the Second Battalion, which runs protection for presidential sites, and the Seventh Battal-

dential area in Mosul, in northern Iraq, and at Jebel Mak-Hool, a key presidential site near the central Iraqi town of Samarra.

Slowly but surely, the props which have supported Saddam are being bombed away. "The West has had three

options. It could either let Saddam carry on regardless, it could try a policy of containment or it could be seen to try to get rid of him," said Mr Trevan. "It would seem that Britain is now moving towards the third option."

He said that with hindsight, the West's policy of trying to deal with Saddam through the weapons inspectors was flawed from the start.

"The policy was based on the notion that through sanctions and the threat of military action, Saddam would be punished if he did not comply," he said. "I think everyone underestimated

Outside Baghdad, the US also hit SRG sites in the president with sanctions there was no way these were going to effective. He was not in danger as long as the people he relied on to keep power did not go without.

"It basically means they have given up on the weapons inspectors and are now going to deal with Saddam through sanctions and the use of military force whenever he gets too powerful."

If America and Britain are trying to get rid of Saddam, it is a policy which brings its own, dangers. Not only would threaten huge instability in an unstable area, but Saddam would not go willingly.

"If the West is trying to bring down Saddam it is an extremely dangerous option," said Professor Rogers. "This regime is all about staying in power. If there came a time when he was threatened it might be the occasion when he would use those biological

Heath supports Labour rebels

DISSIDENTS

SIR EDWARD HEATH joined BY COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent Labour dissidents yesterday in condemning the bombing of

Iraq as "dubious" and criticised Tony Blair for giving unequivocal support to President Bill Clinton for the offensive. It came as Mr Blair faced mounting criticism of the bombing. The Christmas recess robbed the rebels of any

chance to mobilise their forces

at Westminster against the

bombing, but they claimed that

more Labour MPs would be under pressure to come out against the attacks this weekend from their constituency parties. George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, signalled a continued strategy of bombing - replacing the use of UN inspectors - to destroy Saddam

Hussein's military might, in-

cluding the Republican Guard.

which has helped sustained

to go away," he said. dissent, if the bombing is prolonged. Even some support-

in opinion, if there were casualties among British forces in the Gulf. Sir Edward's intervention on BBC radio is likely to make Labour MPs more uncomfortable. The former Tory prime

minister criticised the British and American leaders for failing to set out clear objectives for the use of force, and made it clear that he was against giving the US uncritical support.

"I believe we should always keep separate on these things.

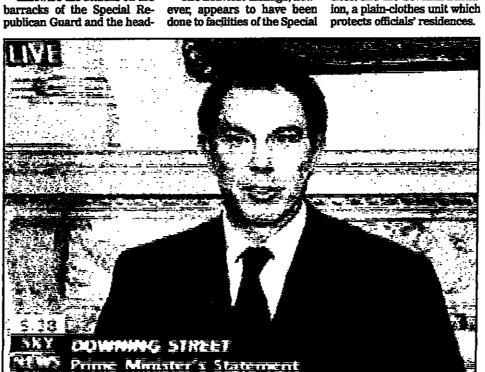
of the United States has got his own domestic problems. We him in power. "We are not going are going to see them going on But there could be growing together," he said. Sir Edward, who met Pres-

ers said there would be a shift

The whole setting of this enterprise has been so dubious, specially when the President

ident Saddam during the Gulf War to release hostages, said the aims had not been clearly defined."How long are they going to keep on? They don't even know whether they are going to go on through Ramadan. Are they aiming at dethroning Saddam Hussein - if so, what happens if they don't?

All these are open questions." Left-wing Labour opponents of the bombing in Iraq were still seething about the whips' ploy which stopped them voting against the Government on Thursday night following a



Tony Blair in Downing Street yesterday giving a statement on the bombings

Commons debate. Tam Dalyell said the refusal to put tellers on for a late-night vote had infuriated Labour MPs who had wanted to register a protest against the Government. "I don't think matters of peace and war are matters for parliamentary games or wheezes,

But Mr Dalyell targeted the "Blair Babes" for special criticism. His remarks are certain to upset some of the women MPs who have supported the action, but Mr Dalyell said it underlined the anger he felt at the way the Government had handled the Commons.

are they doing? I think they don't "If anybody thinks that want to make up their minds."

ate than men when they are near politics, they had better think again," he said. "With the honourable exception of Alice Mahon (Labour MP for Halifax). who cannot sensibly be described as a Blair Babe, what

Campbell warns on fake pictures

GOVERNMENT fears that the BY COLIN BROWN television coverage of bombing Iraq could turn public opinion against the war were highlighted yesterday with a Downing Street warning to "place a health warning" on some of the coverage from Baghdad.

As reports came in of an Iraqi hospital being damaged by a blast from a cruise missile in Baghdad, the Prime Minister's official spokesman urged journalists not to be taken in by the Iraqi propaganda machine.

He claimed Western television film crews had been duped in the Gulf War over the highly publicised bombing of a Iraqi plant making baby's milk The Downing Street spokesman said on another occasion, workmen had been seen shortly before the television crews arrived, removing slates from another building to make it appear it had been hit.

"There should be a health warning attached to what the AND PAUL MCCANN

media is allowed to see said. The Downing Street spokesman said that much of the bombing was being directed at military targets outside Baghdad, believed to include the barracks of the Republican Guard. This was not being shown because film crews were being tightly controlled.

Television reporters in the Iraqi capital are being escorted to sites chosen by Saddam Hussein's regime. So far these have been sites the Iraqis claim are civilian buildings.

Most pictures are coming from crews on the roof of the Information Ministry. Some other pictures are also coming from the roof of the Al-Rashid Hotel where most journalists are staying. When the bombing begins, all foreign journalists have been ordered to stay either at the

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E INDEPENDENT

Congress, torn by bitter wrangle

IN THE HOUSE

AS THE United States carried out a third night of air strikes on Iraq and senior Democrats railed against the conjunction of military action and high politics, the House of Representatives convened to debate the removal from office of the President of the United States and the Commander in Chief of its armed forces, William Jefferson

It was only the second time in US history that the House had weighed the impeachment of the President, but the sense of history lost out to a sense of indignation.

The atmosphere in the House chamber was raucous and bad-tempered, more reminiscent of Britain's noisy and combative House of Commons than the drawing-room style of the US House of Representatives. As soon as the formalities – the oath of allegiance and the opening prayer - were completed the Democrats ventured a resolution of adjournment on the grounds that discussion of impeachment was inappropriate at such a time.

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They also ventured, halfheartedly, a motion of censure n replace the impeachment, but they failed on both counts, and the House reading clerk, Paul Hays, opened the historic debate with a ringing rehearsal of the articles of impeachment: the four charges - two of perjury, one of obstructing justice and one of abuse of power - on which Bill Clinton stands

Anticipating, perhaps, what was to come, the chairman for the debate, Ray LeHood, laid

BY MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

seemly conduct. But his warning fell on deaf - or reluctant ears. The debate that followed descended rapidly into a jumble of fearsome charges, lofty rhetoric, childish point-scoring and remembered slights.

Republicans harked back to Richard Nixon, the president who resigned rather than lose an impeachment vote in the House. For the Democrats, the leitmotif was "unfairness", the unfairness which had impelled the Republicans to reschedule the debate so soon, the unfairness of the charges against the President, the unfairness of threatening to impeach a president who enjoyed the confidence and support of "the But the debate was opened

with appropriate gravitas by Henry Hyde, the patrician chairman of the House judiciary committee, who had chaired the six weeks of impeachment hearings and overseen the formulation of the charges. Citing Benjamin Franklin and the Magna Carta, and sprinkling his rhetoric with an almost Clintonlike populism, Mr Hyde noted that the White House had hardly contested the accusations against the President "They've admitted, in fact, that he did it, but question whether it rises to the level of high crimes and misdemeanours. It's a 'so what?' defence."

Referring to the volumes of evidence supplied by the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, in the Monica Lewinsky down the rules of civility and case, Mr Hyde said: "We have







President Bill Clinton with his wife. Hillary; Henry Hyde, chairman of the House judiciary committee (top right), and Dick Gephardt, leader of the minority Democrats AP

the facts: we have them under oath; we have Ms Lewinsky's heavily corroborated evidence." The rule of law, he said, "is one of the great achievements of our history ... Law, not brute force, is the arbiter of our public destiny ... For anyone to violate the law is to trample on the blood of his

And in a calculated allusion to Mr Clinton's widely praised talent as a politician and his continuing popularity, Mr Hyde

stressed: "No man, no matter how gifted a manipulator of opinion, can be above the law." Paraphrasing the first and central theme of his committee's report to Congress, the argument that the President, as chief executive, has a paramount duty to uphold the law of the land, Mr Hyde noted the historic significance of the debate (and the one, perhaps, for which yesterday's proceedings

will be remembered).

ting the parameters of permissible presidential conduct," he said, and went on: "We cannot have one law for the ruler and another for the ruled. If that understanding is lost, the American experiment - and the freedom it guarantees - is

Responding to Mr Hyde was the firebrand orator, Dick Gephardt, leader of the minority Democrats, who had led their pleas for the debate to be postponed until the mili-

tary engagement with Iraq was at an end.

But Mr Gephardt was not his aggressive self. He adopted a quiet, importunate mode, calling - almost wistfully - for the House to observe "certain values: trust, fairness, forgiveness..." and for "politics of respect and decency". The President, he said, was accused of "abuse of power". "We have an obligation not to abuse our power'

For his models, he took the

Prophet Isaiah and the Get- them to stop interrupting and lysburg Address of Abraham Lincoln: "In your effort to uphold the Constitution," he chided, "you are trampling the Constitution." And he closed:

"Let fairness reign." Fairness, at least as Mr Gephardt would define it, however, was far from the thoughts of many honourable members. They shuffled and they barracked, they cheered and they booed. Time and again, the chairman intervened to tell

stay in their seats, but the effects were shortlived, and battle was rejoined.

A vote - that President Clinton should stand trial in the Senate - was a foregone conclusion, foreshadowed in the defeat of Democrats' attempts to have the debate postponed. The only question was when: when would Bill Clinton follow Andrew Johnson, impeached for sacking his war secretary in 1868, into the history books?

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I strayed too, Kepublican leader is forced to admit

SLEAZE

WHEN THE longer-term history of Bill Clinton's impeachment is written, the name of Bob Livingston will be only a footnote. Yesterday, however, as the House of Representatives convened to debate the past and future of President Clinton, it loomed large, casting an additional shadow of sleaze over a ual dalliance.

Hours before the debate was due to open, the news had sped gound Washington that Mr Livingston, 55, elected last month to succeed Newt Gingrich as Speaker of the House, had admitted marital infidelity. "During my 33-year marriage to my wife, Bonnie, I have on occasion strayed from my marriage, and doing so nearly cost me my marriage and family," he said in a statement. It came as the twice-weekly

congressional newspaper, Roll Call, was going to press.

The paper had posted a report on its website exposing the Speaker-elect's indiscretions and Mr Livingston made clear By Mary Dejevsky in Washington

prompted by that revelation: "There are individuals working with the media who are investigating my personal background in an effort to find indiscretions which may be exploitable against me and debate whose genesis was sex- my party on the eve of the upcoming historic vote on impeachment."

He drew a distinction between his conduct and that of Mr Clinton with the White House trainee Monica Lewinsky, saying: "I want to assure everyone that these indiscretions were not with employees on my staff and I have never been asked to testify under oath about them," he said. He insisted he would not re-

sign or change his stance on impeachment. He then appeared before a

packed party meeting, where he repeated his admission to a standing ovation.

The corridors of the Capitol were alive with Republicans admission had been who claimed to see the hand of



Bob Livingston: 'I have

Speaker-elect's admission, and repeated their cries of "sexual McCarthyism". Mr Livingston was the fourth Republican to be accused of sexual misconduct since the independent prosecutor's report on the Clinton-Lewinsky affair was passed to the House, and the answer to the question "Who benefits from such allega-

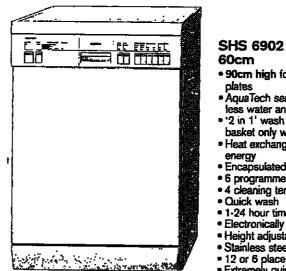
tions?" was clear.

made against Henry Hyde, chairman of the judiciary committee, before it opened impeachment hearings. Mr Hyde, 74, was alerted to a report in the pro-Clinton Internet magazine . Salon about a 30-year-old affair with a married woman which had ended her marriage. In admitting it, he dismissed it as a "youthful indiscretion" (he was in his forties at the time). He tendered his resignation to the judiciary committee but it was turned down.

The White House denied involvement in the Livingston allegations, as it had denied having anything to do with the others. But they undoubtedly had an effect in focusing attention back on the issue of sexual misconduct and away from the legal and constitutional issues.

They made it more difficult for Republicans, as a party, to take the moral high ground against Mr Clinton, and they may have discouraged representatives with a "past" from expressing themselves too forcefully against Mr Clinton - or speaking at all. That, Similar accusations were at least, was the Republican view.

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Perjury a matter of semantics LEGAL ARGUMENTS

IF THERE was a perfect issue on which to wage the climactic battle of the Clinton presidency, this is it: not a matter of high policy not an act of egregious criminality, not even a foreign war. Just a maddening, legalistic quibble.

No president in US historyand few lawyers for that matter - can match Bill Clinton for his adeptness at semantics. his ability to leave himself verbal bolt holes invisible to the naked eye. Not for nothing has he been known from his old kansas days as Siick Willie. But if the House does

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

impeach him on two counts of perjury and send him for trial in the Senate, even he will be

Perjury to the layman is pretty straightforward. It is short of that, including oral defined as "knowingly making a false statement about mate-

rial facts while under oath." Twice in the Lewinsky affair he has given evidence under oath, and twice he has told what any normal human being would consider whoppers.
Not, however William Jef-

ferson Clinton.

tions" with the said Monica? that therefore he has never Depends what you mean by sexual relations. For Mr Clin- with her. Of course, saying you ton (and a few dusty dictionarpressed to square the circle. ies) "sexual relations" means "sexual intercourse." Anything

> ain't perjury, his lawyers contend, just an honest disagreement among friends. Ah but was he ever alone with Monica?

when you do is perjury. But try ing proving that one in court. And so it goes on: over the sex, doesn't count. presents the President gave the But what if he touched Monica's breast? That is what she meeting with Ms Lewinsky, says but, the President points and whether or not they disout, only she says so. And that cussed the subpoena she faced.

Did he have "sexual rela- and his lawyers leap to point out

intern; over the date of his last "I don't know," Mr Clinton said.

testified he was never alone

don't remember something

Waste not pity on the President certainly - but spare a thought for the Senate. It's got Can't remember, says Bill - to pick a way through the fog.

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BBC settles fight over news line-up.

BY PAUL MCCANN Media Editor

THE BBC completed its longawaited rejig of news presenters yesterday after two years of turmoil which has seen most of the broadcaster's senior newsreaders pitted against each other and damage to at least one executive's chance of becoming the next director-general.

Welshman Huw Edwards. 37, is to present the Six O'clock News to demonstrate that the BBC is serious about the regions. Edwards has been presenting the News at One and Breakfast News occasionally. Before that he was a BBC political correspondent.

Anna Ford is to anchor the One O'clock News. As a compromise to different factions, Michael Buerk and Peter Sissons will share main billing on the nine o'clock bulletin.



Edwards beat off competition from Jill Dando, who withdrew last week after leaks that the head of news, Tony Hall, thought her too lightweight, Sian Williams from News 24 and *Newsnight's* Sarah Montague.



Losers in the changes include Martyn Lewis, who has been offered a job on the BBC's overseas channel BBC World. He is said to be "discussing his options". Also dropping off screen is Ed Stourton, who is to join the Today programme and Justin Webb, who takes over The World Tonight.

The delay in making the changes has angered almost all the BBC's news presenters who have been in limbo while senior managers fought their own battles to get favoured candidates on air.

The process began with a strategy review two years ago which aimed to update BBC news programmes for the next millennium. The first report, which recommended the BBC make its news easier to understand, was rejected by the director-general, Sir John Birt.

A second tranche of audience research was carried out while presenters were left not knowing which programmes they were to present. Some, like Buerk, Sissons and Stourton have had their contracts run out while they wait for BBC executives to make up their mind on who they want. "It has been an absolute shambles," said

one senior presenter yesterday. Ford is even believed to have threatened BBC executives with legal action after research was leaked which claimed viewers found her too "frosty" on air.

The main cause of the delay has been a battle between BBC Broadcast, the department which controls BBC1, and BBC News, which makes the news programmes. BBC1's controller, Peter Salmon, wanted a popular figure like Dando to front the Six and Buerk for the Nine while Tony Hall, chief executive of BBC News, was violently opposed.

The animosity is believed to have become so bad that it led to the decision not to interrupt BBC1 programmes on Wednesday night when the Iraq missile attack began. "The departments loathe each other," said a BBC source. "Broadcast thinks news programmes just lose viewers."

Adding to the BBC's woes was a rebellion in Scotland about whether BBC Scotland should have its own news at six.

BBC insiders believe Hall's hopes of succeeding Birt, when he retires in 2000, have been

TV fake costs • Carlton £2m

CARLTON'S CENTRAL Television has been fined a record £2m for what the Independent Television Commission is calling the most serious breach ever of its programme code.

The commission said yesterday that Carlton's faked drugs documentary The Connection, which picked up a shelf-full of awards after it was stantiate this was fake. reened on ITV in October 1996, involved "a wholesale breach of trust between programme-makers and viewers".

Although the ITC could have levied a maximum penalty of £8.3m (three per cent of Central's advertising revenue), £2m still represents a fine of unprecedented severity. The largest fine to date was levied against Granada Television, which had to pay £500,000 for giving products undue prominence on its This Morning pro-

In uncompromising language which reflects the commission's concern about the programme makers' misdemeanours, the ITC also said that it had "seriously considered" shortening Central's licence, a sanction it would have no hesitation in applying if a gling trade.

By Rhys Williams

similar breach surfaced again. Sir Robin Biggam, chairman of the ITC. said: "The programme set out with ambitious claims to demonstrate the existence of a major new route for drug-run-ning into the UK. Much of what was offered as evidence to sub-

penalty imposed by the ITC reflects the scale of the programme's ambition and the. consequent degree of deception of viewers. The board of Cariton Communications (Central's parent company) should be in no doubt that such an upprecedented breach of comp ance must not be allowed to

recur. The ITC sanction follows a six-month investigation into the programme set up by Cariton but led by Michael Beloff QC, an independent counsel, and John Wilson, a former controller of editorial policy at the BBC. The Connection won eight international television awards for its extraordinary and apparently unique access to the Colombian drug smug-

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IN BRIEF

Pilot feared dead in jump-jet crash

AN RAF pilot was feared dead yesterday when a Harrier jump jet crashed into a field. The aircraft, based at RAF Wittering in Cambridgeshire, came down near Streatlam, County Durham. A police spokesman said: "The jet burst into flames. It seems he clipped a power line but that has not been confirmed. The pilot didn't appear to get out."

Hillsborough charges to go ahead

THE PRIVATE prosecution of two retired police officers by families of the victims of the 1989 Hillsborough disaster is to continue after the Crown Prosecution Service said it would not take over and halt the proceedings. Ch Supt David Duckenfield, 53, and Supt Bernard Murray, 56, face charges of manslaughter and neglect of duty. Mars cleared over mouse in Topic

THE SWEET manufacturer Mars was yesterday

acquitted of breaching the Food Safety Act 1990 for selling a Topic bar containing parts of a mouse. Horseferry magistrates' court in London ruled that the company could not be held responsible because the mouse parts were among hazelnuts sent by a supplier in Turkey.

Police hunt killer of pensioner

A MURDER hunt was launched yesterday after an 88-year-old woman was found tied up and strangled to death in her warden-controlled flat in Bognor Regis, West Sussex. The flat had been ransacked. Police have yet to establish whether anything was stolen.

SUE ARNOLD



A Christmas card message must be brief. And it must be legible WEEKEND REVIEW PAGE 5

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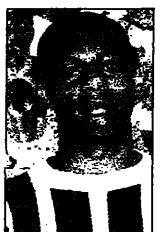
INDEPENDENT.

Lawrence report to censure 24 officers

THE PRELIMINARY draft of BY KATHY MARKS the report by the Stephen Lawrence inquiry contains scathing criticism of two dozen Metropolitan Police officers, including the former third highest-ranking officer in the force. The Independent has learned.

Former Deputy Assistant Commissioner David Osland is among witnesses to the inquiry who have been notified that they face censure for their part in the abortive investigation of Stephen's racist murder in Eltham, south-east London. in April 1993. Letters setting out the substance of provisional conclusions reached by Sir William Macpherson of Chuny, hairman of the public inquiry. ere sent to the officers' solicitors on Thursday.

The aim is to give them an opportunity to respond to criticisms that Sir William plans to make in his final version of the report, which is expected to be



Stephen Lawrence, Died in south London in 1993

published in mid-February. They have until 11 January to make representations to him. Sir William and his advisers, who completed eight months of

lic hearings in November, racism. He also wrote a memo nave concluded that the mur- to the Metropolitan Police Comder investigation was incom- missioner. Sir Paul Condon, petent. It was also blighted by stating that his patience with racism, both individual and institutional, they believe. The details of their early

findings are confidential, but they are understood to be couched in strong terms. Some witnesses are accused of appointed to look after the "appalling" failures in their Lawrence family. professional duties.

tective Superintendent Ian ing that was issued 14 months Crampton, who was in charge ago, a government inspector of the case for the first 72 said yesterday. hours, and former Detective Sucase, are now retired.

pects - Jamie Acourt, Neil Acourt, David Norris, Luke Knight and Gary Dobson - despite receiving scores of tip-offs soon after Stephen was killed.

Det Supt Weeden, who waited another fortnight before detaining them, admitted to the inquiry that he was uncertain of the legal grounds for arrest. Charges against the five youths were dropped for lack of evidence and a private prosecution, mounted by the Lawrence family also failed.

Sir William recently ruled that witnesses could not see excerpts from the report before he presented it to the Home Secretary, Jack Straw. But he said that, "in the interests of fairness", he would give them advance warning of possible criticisms. Nearly all of the high-ranking officers have been sent letters by the inquiry.

They include former Detective Chief Superintendent William Ilsley, who supervised the investigation, and former Chief Superintendent John Philpot, who was in charge of uniformed officers in the division. Detective Chief Inspector Ben Bullock, who is still serving, is also named. Det Ch Insp Bullock, the inquiry heard, declined to interview a youth who came into the police station to volunteer information less than 24 hours after Stephen was stabbed to death. He turned out to be an impeccable source.

Mr Osland, who is now a Conservative councillor, was in charge of policing in southeast London at the time and as such had overall responsibility for the conduct of the case. He once advised murder

squad detectives to sue Stephen's father, Neville Lawrence, for accusing them of the Lawrence family was "wearing thin".

Others singled out include Detective Sergeant John Bevan and Detective Constable Linda Holden the officers

Many police forces are still pong the senior officers failing to take race issues seriously, despite an official warn-

Despite the publication, in perintendent Brian Weeden. October last year, of a report by who took over for the next 12 Her Majesty's Inspectors of months. Both men, like most of Constabulary that contained the officers connected with the 20 recommendations, not enough progress has been Det Supt Crampton took the made, Dan Crompton, the refateful decision to delay port's author told a conference arresting the five prime sus- on race and policing.

Wordists find 18,000 new items a month

IS YOUR achiever fever leading BY GLENDA COOPER to analysis paralysis? Are you a fashionista, a waitress mom or an ego-surfer? Do you suffer from domophobia or air

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sioner

These are some of the new gramme in 1998 as part of their extensive trawl for new vocabulary, averaging more than 18,000 new words and meanings

the new words to determine parlance this year, following which are significant enough to require a place in dictionaries. said Peter Gilliver, chief general revision editor of the Oxford English dictionaries.

The words his team will concessant round of work-related your television set. activity) and analysis paralysis (when decision-making ability amounts of information).

be quatter – someone who come which became a key demographic group in the 1998 names as Internet addresses in mid-term elections.

Social Affairs Correspondent

order to sell them on for profit to the company involved. Other Internet-inspired words this year are ego-surfing (searching words discovered by the Oxford the Internet for occurrences of English dictionary reading pro- your own name) and cyberwidow (the unfortunate partner of a habitual Internet user). Domophobia indicates se-

vere hostility to the millennium dome whereas air rage and The programme monitors web rage also became common the popularity of road rage. For those reluctant to go out and risk global distillation (pollution of the Arctic eco-system) it is more than likely that you will be subjected to irrisider include achiever fever tainment dirritating but none (the reduction of life to an in-

Social groupings are also assessed such as fashionista, a is paralysed by overwhelming devotee of the cutting edge of haute couture, or waitress Mr Gilliver's favourite is cymom, a US parent on low in-

Surgeons build thumb from seaman's toe



constructed the thumb of a seaman who was injured while working on an oil tanker.

BRITISH SURGEONS have re-

Emilio Valerio, 35, had his thumb ripped out when a rope with a 15-ton breaking strain snapped. Surgeons at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust in London spent six months rebuilding his hand, culminating in the transplant of a toe to create a substitute thumb.

Yesterday, doctors removed a pin from Mr Valerio's new "thumb" in the final stage of the surgery.

Mr Valerio was loading oil by hose on to the 100,000-ton tanker in Nigeria when the accident happened last May. A crane driver manoeuvring the hose did not see him and when the rope broke it whipped backwards with explosive force. "I am lucky it was only my thumb," he said yesterday.

A helicopter took him to hospital in Lagos with his severed thumb packed in ice. His employers, Chevron, the United States oil company, arranged an air ambulance to fly him to London the same night. However, delays in obtaining the necessary exit papers prevented his departure until four days later. By that time, his Nigerian doctors decided his thumb would be no use and cheque," Mr Valerio said.

By JEREMY LAURANCE **Health Editor**

discarded it. "If they had sent it with me, the surgeons at St Thomas' could have salvaged the bone and tendons," he said.

Ciaran Healy, consultant plastic surgeon at St Thomas', said the injury had left a deep hole in Mr Valerio's hand which had to be rebuilt. First, he took bone from his hip and transferred it to his hand to create the foundation for a new digit. For three weeks Mr Valerio had his hand sewn into an incision in his groin to provide it with a substitute blood supply. And in the final operation, which lasted eight hours. surgeons transplanted the second toe from his foot using microscopes to attach blood vessels and nerves. Mr Healv said: "Each stage in the oper-

ation worked wonderfully." Surgeons say he will eventually have a near normal grip. but Mr Valerio said he could al-

ready pick up small objects. Today he is flying home to the Philippines for Christmas. When he returns to work in the new year, Chevron has promised that an offer of promotion to chief officer, made before his injury, remains open.

"It is like having a blank



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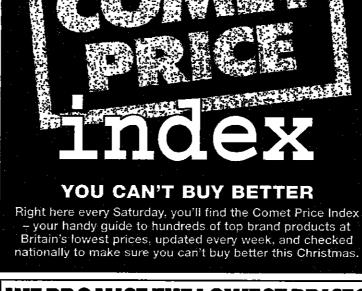
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ULSTER'S ARSENAL

ing of Loyalist Volunteer

Force (LVF) weapons in

Belfast, though carrying a

powerful symbolic charge

because of its unprecedent-

ed nature, represents but a drop in the ocean in terms

of Northern Ireland's total

The Government's hope will

be that the LVF's action in

handing over fewer than a

ball rolling. But everyone is

possibly thousands of guns

in the hands of paramilitary

groups which show no sign

The most heavily armed

group is the IRA, which in

the mid-1980s received sev-

eral shiploads of guns from

Colonel Muammar Gaddafi's

Libyan regime, transforming it into the best-supplied ter-

rorist group in Western Eu-

rope. Some of this materiel

security forces north and

south of the border, but a

great deal is still hidden.

nal are up to 1,000 rifles.

nikovs which came from

At the heart of the IRA arse-

most of them modern Kalash-

Libya. It also has hundreds of

has since been seized by the

of following suit.

well aware that there are

dozen guns will start the



'I was twelve and I was admiring the breasts of the girls in school and trying to figure out a way to get my hands on them'

Thomas Lynch on the connection between love and sex and nativity

THE BEST-WRITTEN SUNDAY PAPER IN BRITAIN, FEATURING PEREGRINE WORSTHORNE, RUTH PADEL, DEAR ANNIE, JEREMY CLARKE, WALLACE ARNOLD, GILBERT ADAIR, TIM DOWLING, JOAN SMITH, MICHAEL BYWATER, JAN MORRIS, KATE FIGES, DAVID THOMSON AND CAPTAIN MOONLIGHT

First Ulster terrorists hand in guns

SHOWERS OF sparks flew into the air in a Belfast warehouse yesterday as observers witnessed a scene many never believed they would see: the sight of voluntarily decommissioned terrorist guns being sawn into

fringe loyalist group was the second important move of the day, for at 4am yesterday bleary eved Unionist and nationalist politicians had announced agreement on the shape of a new Northern Ireland administration.

their limitations for the group central issue of decommis- no coherent political philosophy. sioning untouched.

British and Irish governments. after months of seemingly interminable wrangling. The politicians will now go off on not have benefited from the sense of achievement at having broken the recent stalemate.

The first-ever act of volunthe LVF's Portadown stronghold to Belfast. The vehicle carried eight or nine guns, detonators and blast bombs.

In keeping with the legislation aimed at facilitating decommissioning, the weapons were not checked for fingerprints or subjected to forensic science tests before their destruction.

Paradoxically, the LVF has in recent years been one of the most violent groups, and one of Ireland Correspondent

process. It was founded by Billy Wright, known as King Rat, who a year ago. In the 12 months up until April of this year the group The destruction of a hand-killed 13 people including 11 ful of weapons given up by a Catholic civilians, a Protestant who was drinking in a Catholic bar, and one of its own members whom it suspected of being an informer. Most of the victims were chosen at random simply because of their religion.

Its current leader, Mark Fulton, was arrested by police re-Both developments have cently in the early hours of a Saturday morning. A bail hearinvolved, the Loyalist Volunteer ing on Tuesday was told that he Force, is one of the smaller un- had been firing a gun in the air derground armies, while the po- after drinking heavily. The litical advance has left the core group has no political wing and

The LVF's decision to call a But both were, none the ceasefire, which took effect in less, hugely welcome to the May of this year, is believed to have been heavily influenced by its 19 imprisoned members. Without a ceasefire they would their Christmas break with a Good Friday Agreement's provisions for early release.

The group opened contact with the Government through tary decommissioning took a Protestant pastor who had place after police provided an served a life sentence for double escort for a car travelling from murder. It then publicly announced that it would decommission some of its weapons if the Government formally recognised its ceasefire. This the Government did some weeks ago.

While David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) called on the IRA and other loyalists to follow the LVF's example, both republican and loyalist spokesmen poured cold water on the idea that decommissioning by the major groups the most opposed to the peace had become any more likely.



A terrorist rifle given up by the LVF Unionists being destroyed at a warehouse in Belfast yesterday John Gües

Gerry Adams, said that he welcomed the LVF move if it was a genuine disarmament effort. but added that the IRA had already made its contribution to peace by announcing and main-

The Sinn Fein president, Volunteer Force-linked Pro- UUP and the nationalist Social ment and the Irish language. This is a Christmas farce. I'm it was decided that a new Northsorry to have to tell you it won't ern Ireland government would make a damn button of differ- have 10 departments. There ence to the main paramilitary

David Ervine of the Ulster out principally between the trade and business develop-

are also to be six cross-border implementation bodies re-In their agreement, thrashed sponsible for areas such as

gressive Unionist Party said: Democratic and Labour Party. and provision for closer northsouth co-operation in areas such as tourism and agriculture. Mr Trimble, who has been troubled by doubters within his party's ranks, received the endorsement of his executive by

70 to 30, which he said reflected

pistols and handguns. the "stability of support" for his position. He was, however, ac-

cused of selling out by the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, which said yesterday's agreement would pave the way for Sinn Fein to take its seats in a new executive without IRA

sophisticated weaponry including powerful machineguns, some anti-aircraft weapons and a number of ground-to-air missiles. It may also have a couple of flame-throwers. It may possess up to three tons of Semtex, the plastic explosive which the IRA incorporated into armour-piercing grenades, shoulder-fired rockets, mortars and undercar booby trap devices. Loyalist groups such as the UVF and UDA, though much larger than the IRA, are not nearly so well-equipped, though a shipment from South Africa about 10 years ago brought them hundreds more guns. They are thought to have perhaps 400 rifles and 300 handguns, together with dozens of machine-guns and a small quantity of explosives. Northern Ireland also has an inordinate number of legally-held firearms -139,000 in a country of a million and a half people. Most of these are shotguns and airguns, together with 13,000 small-bore rifles and 12,700 handguns.

The IRA also received from

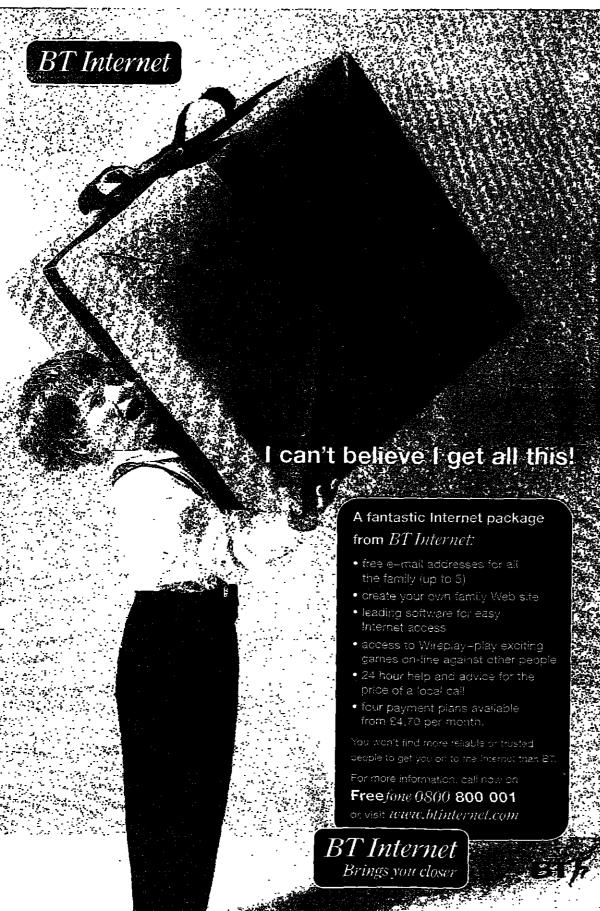
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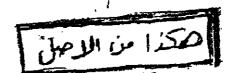
THE INDEPENI

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The LVF arms handover was described as a modest but significant move by the Canadian General John de Chastelain, who heads the decommissioning body. The general said that he hoped for complete disarmament by May

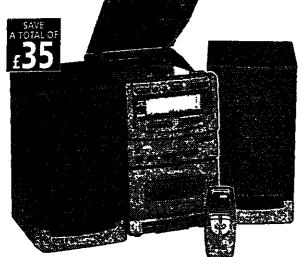






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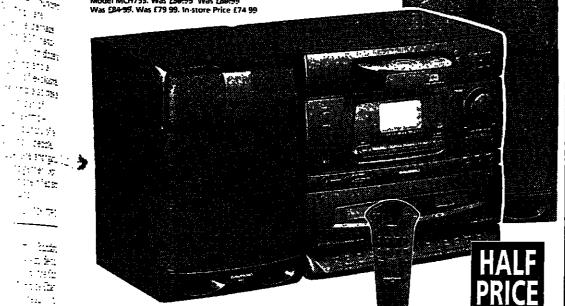
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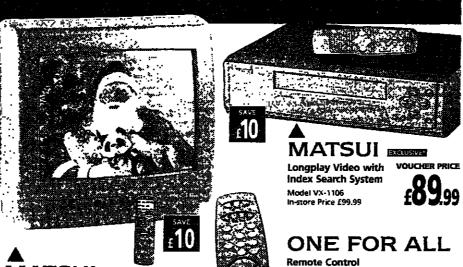
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Branson record bid airborne

RICHARD BRANSON and his round-the-world balloon crew were yesterday heading to-wards the Middle East after a perfect morning launch.

After a two-week wait for the right weather conditions and overcoming complications caused by the crisis in Iraq the ICO global challenge set off on its 24,000-mile flight at 9.30am from Marrakesh in Morocco with its three-man crew.

Mr Branson, 48, Per Lindstrand, 47, and millionaire American Steve Fossett. 54. who hold numerous ballooning records between them, have dedicated the attempt to their former co-pilot Alex Ritchie who died in April after a parachuting accident. Mr Ritchie saved the lives of Messrs Branson and Lindstrand when the Virgin Global Challenger balloon crashed in the Algerian



Richard Branson with daughter Holly before the balloon launch (top left) in Marrakesh yesterday

Doctors upset by jibe over private work

OPEN HOSTILITIES have bro- By COLIN BROWN ken out between doctors' leaders and the Government over illegations by the Health minister, Alan Milburn, that hospital consultants are spending too

much time doing private work. The British Medical Association reacted angrily to criticism of consultants contained in a letter from Mr Milburn to the Doctors and Dentists Pay Review Body (DDRB).

In the letter, Mr Milburn reiterated his plan, announced last summer, to reform the pay of consultants to reward those who spend more time on NHS patients.

However, the language that ne used infuriated doctors. Mr Milburn wrote: "Taxpayers have a right to expect value for money from this highly paid group of professionals. There are a minority of consultants who do not properly co-operate in working productively for the NHS and put their private practice before their NHS work."

The BMA fired off its own protest letter to Brandon Gough, chairman of the DDRB. defending the consultants. "The fact is that consultants across the board are already working some 51 hours per week, well in excess of the legal maximum." said Ian Bogle, chairman of the BMA council.

The row signals deterioratand the Government. Senior AND JEREMY LAURANCE

doctors have become weary of reports of incompetent or misbehaving doctors being used to tar the whole profession and believe that Mr Milburn is farming

the flames against them. The association was also angered by Mr Milburn's earlier proposal to change the law underpinning the General Medical Council to make it easier for the Government to intervene in

> Although the proposal was rebuffed, doctors saw that episode as evidence that he was more interested in controlling the profession than working

in an Audit Commission investigation three years ago which found that consultants with large private practices were neglecting their NHS duties, leaving junior doctors to run outpatient clinics and carry out operations unsupervised.

The Audit Commission found that although most doctors worked long hours and showed great dedication to the NHS there was wide variation in the amount of work done by consultant surgeons.

Some were doing five times as much as others, even after allowing for differences in the ing relations between the BMA nature of the operations and the complexity of the cases. The report also found that the 25 per cent of consultants who did most private work, did least for

The BMA said then that the commission had failed to take account of the time doctors spent on call and had made false comparisons between

In the latest dispute about pay, the association complained on Thursday that it had been misled. Health department officials who attended a meeting with the BMA about the consultants "did not even raise the question of pay, let alone give an indication that there was any question of a major restructuring of NHS pay," said Dr

Mr Milburn said the current pay system was holding back the modernisation of the NHS. "Too many NHS staff work under outdated, narrow job labels and depend on a range of arcane allowances of varying value to enhance basic pay," he said. "This fragmented approach to pay and conditions distorts working patterns and inhibits the development of the 24-hour flexible services we want for patients."

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In a separate letter to the nurses' pay review body. Mr Milburn said that a new national pay system for the NHS was needed. "The scale of the problem calls for radical solu-

Priest and friend win £165,000 from 'Sun'

A ROMAN Catholic priest and By STEPHEN GOODWIN his friend, a former headteacher, were yesterday awarded a total of £165,000 damages after suing the Sun newspaper.

Father Noel Barry, press secretary to Cardinal Thomas Winning, head of the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland. and Annie Clinton, an education adviser with Glasgow City Council, claimed that an article in The Scottish Sun in September 1996 implied they were involved in a long-term. secret, sexual relationship.

Each sued for damages of £200,000 and after a trial lasting 10 days at Edinburgh's Court of Session, a judge awarded the pair a substantial part of it. Fr Barry, 42, of Milngavie, Strathclyde, won £45,000 and Ms Clinton, 51, of Lanarkshire, won £120,000. The jury took almost four hours to reach a unanimous verdict that the pair had

been defamed. There was no reaction from were sitting next to each other in the court, but when the jury left Ms Clinton hugged her lawyer. The pair admitted In the witness box at the bespending nights under the same roof at Ms Clinton's house, but denied they ever had a sexual relationship.

It had taken the bombing of Iraq to knock the "priest story" yesterday after a former nun he would have liked sexual in- you want, tears ?"

Scotland Correspondent



Fr Barry: Vow of celibacy

Caroline Brown, 38, told the court that she lost her virginity to Fr Barry in a Preston hotel room in 1985.

Mrs Brown, who now has two children, told the court that Fr Barry had lied under oath. She said they had been in Fr Barry or Ms Clinton, who love and she thought they would marry but their relationship petered out after he failed to leave the priesthood. ginning of the trial, Fr Barry had spoken of the night in the Crest Hotel but denied that he broke his vow of celibacy al-

though he was "tempted". However, he suggested to timacy. "Right now, I suppose I can honestly say, hand on heart, that in an ideal world, if such exists, for me as a human being I would want to be married, but that is a sacrifice I have chosen to make as a

The Sun, and good many other observers of the case. thought it had a match-winning witness in Mrs Brown. Bruce Waddell, editor of The Scottish Sun, said that after the "very private and very painful" evidence given by Mrs Brown, he was "extremely disappointed". at the verdict for Father Barry The publishers are considering an appeal.

Cardinal Winning, the Archbishop of Glasgow, said that the church had not paid anything to the costs incurred by his press secretary in fighting the case and refused to be drawn into debate on the case. "To prolong the personal hurt of those whose lives have been affected by this

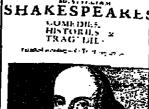
incident is pointless," he said. Mrs Brown told the court on Thursday that the Cardinal had been unsympathetic when she approached him about the liaison with Fr Barry. He had asked her if she had an tape recordings. "I became quite upset," she said. "I said 'I don't think you realise how difficult this is for me to come here'. off the front pages in Scotland the jury there were times when [The cardinal] said What do

Chaucer and Shakespeare manuscripts are stolen

MANUSCRIPTS AND books including a rare Shakespeare edition and a fragment of a Chaucer poem worth at least £250,000 in total have been stolen from Durham University. Police believe professional thieves may have been acting for a collector.

Cases containing the works, part of an exhibition open to the public on the development of English literature, were forced open. The theft was discovered on Thursday but the last confirmed sighting of the two manuscripts and five books was the previous Friday, when the exhibition closed.

A university spokesman said: "The ... library is not a hideaway library. We're part of the beritage of the region and we put on displays. There is always a risk in putting things on show but nothing on this scale has ever happened before." It BY LOUISE JURY





the treasures stolen

was unclear how the works were taken from the building without anyone noticing. They would be "virtually impossible to sell on the legitimate

market". The three most valu-

able items were a manuscript of an English translation of the New Testament from the late 14th or early 15th century, a manuscript including the fragment of a Chaucer poem from about the same period, and a copy of the first printed edition of Shakespeare's collected

works, from 1623. The Shakespeare was particularly significant, as it was bought new by Bishop Cosin, when he was Bishop of Durham, and was the only First Folio edition to have stayed in the originat collection in Durham. Among the other treasures were a 1566 edition of works by the 10th-century writer Aelfric and an edition of the Anglo-Saxon

epic Beowulf printed in 1812. A police spokesman said the library did not seem to have been broken into and it appeared the theft had taken place while it was open.

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Chan Dalmiya, Internati d Cricket Council president

Memories: a national asset being wasted

BY IAN JACK

THE ROT of the family has many consequences for frail old people and most of them are well enough known. Paid homehelps replace dutiful, unpaid daughters as bed-makers. dusters and dish-washers. The social worker visits once a week.

And now, at this season, there will be cards on the mantlepiece from the grandchildren, badly lettered to GrAndMa (writing is not what it was in her day), with a ps from their parents saying that, traffic permitting on the motorway, they hope to be there about five o clock on the 24th.

This is how freedom, mobility and ambition have arranged our lives and, though inner and outer voices sometimes nag us, we are more or less happy to let other people, paid by national and local taxation or privately, take the strain. The professions of medicine

and social work have provided substitutes for the family. The day-care centre has replaced the neighbourhood. Doing the hokey cokey may not have the same rewards as a grandchild dandled on the knee, but the people in charge are kind and nelp you, if you are frail, to get on and off the lavatory, raise you in and out of the bath.

But what happens here to memory? Whatever their demands, that is what the old have always given us; some sense of individual history, of how things were before we came along.

Until this week, when I went to a new day-care centre in London, it had never occurred to me that remembering - vocally remembering - was also a casualty of atomised families and fractured communities and that it needed to be formalised as a kind of amusement or therapy, like the hokey cokey or back massage.

In fact, Reminiscence – an of-ucial recreation which deserves the capital R, like Ludo - turns out be one of social work's small growth areas. At the Soho Centre for Health Care, they have regular sessions of Reminiscence which are focused by subject and framed by rules. One week it might be "Schooldays" and the next 'Work". Participants must not interrupt one another, confidences must be kept. Objects (tram tickets? Sunlight soap?) a stimulate the memory are kept in the Reminiscence Centre at Blackheath in south-east London, a sort of memory bank.

A publisher specialises in Reminiscence quiz books for looked at one.

Q: What were people asked to Dig For? A: Victory.

Q: Whose catchphrase was "Can you hear me mother?" Sandy Powell.
Further Q: Who was Sandy

Powell? Further A: If you need to ask, forget it). All this was a surprise. I had

no idea that memory was a niche market. I had thought that we all grew up with some equivalent of old Steptoe or Alf Garnett, forever remembering.

2.5

Marie Marsh, who runs the day-care centre for Westminster City Council and Age Concern, said that you sometimes had to go carefully during sessions of remembering. People did not, ्रञ् the whole, like to remember ef, and for that reason the war was not a popular subject. The coronation, on the other hand, was very popular indeed.

"Any particular coronation?" I asked. There are many people still alive, after all, who can remember three.

You know, the coronation." said Ms Marsh's assistant. "In 1961 or 1962 or whenever it was."

I supplied the proper date that summer everyone at school got New Testaments with EIIR stamped on the jacket. And



There were three: Amy Brown, born in Chelsea, west London, 1908; Rose Maddocks, born Dublin, 1913; Jim Proudfoot, born Lowestoft, Suffolk, 1918. One way to summarise their lives, although it is a poor guide to their personalities, is what they once did for a living. Mrs Brown was a domestic servant: "I started as a kitchen maid in a big house in Cadogan Gardens on a shilling a week." Mr Proudfoot worked on a farm and on fishing drifters before the war and for United Dairies after it, with service in the Royal Air Force between. Mrs Maddocks moved as a teenager from Ireland to Eng-

land and worked in munitions. Here are some of the things they said, witness statements to this closing century.

EARLIEST MEMORIES

"THE WHEELS on my mother's wheelchair. She had rheumatic fever. My dad had died. I was about four." (Mr Proudfoot)

"Something one night in our house. This must have been 1914. My mother's brother was in the Lancers and he was going off to France. He was worried about his horse. I remember the tears, how upset everyone was." (Mrs Brown) "Going to school in Dublin. Going to school and not learn-

FIRST PUBLIC EVENTS "THAT EXPLOSION in the East End. What was it called now? It shook our flats all the way over in Chelsea. I remember a man on the street saying: 'Silvertown went up." Yes, that's what it was, the Silvertown explosives factory. A lot died there, mainly girls and women. They'd all turned yellow from the TNT [explosive], but it was

ing much." (Mrs Maddocks)

"An election meeting in our village hall at Hopton. We were taken along to sit at the back and told keep quiet." (Mr Proudfoot)

all hushed up." (Mrs Brown)

"IT WAS hard, very hard. On the farm, you used to have to pick out all the sugar beet by hand. That wasn't a very good prospect, facing a 30-acre field on a cold the old. In the Soho centre, I morning You worked and you bit your tongue." (Mr Proudfoot)

"Yes, if you so much as looked at somebody sideways, they'd give you the sack'. (Mrs Brown)

'It happened but nobody talked about it." (Mrs Maddocks) "If you had sex in Hopton you

just went about with a smile on your face." (Mr Proudfoot) "What with the horsewhip and the old man, you didn't dare go wrong." (Mrs Brown)

"If a girl went wrong she moved away." (Mr Proudfoot) And the later sexual liberty? Nobody was disturbed by it -"You have to go forward with the times." (Mrs Brown)

"HOWEVER POOR you were there was always a little bit of snobbery there. My mother was in service and she used to say that there was more snobbery below stairs than above them. And if you went to the village dance you always took a packet of Woodbine in one pocket and Players in the other. Woodbine was your normal smoke. The Players were there in case you met someone." (Mr Proudfoot)

"Yes, but the proper gentry weren't so bad. We were never supposed to travel in the lift now, feeling like an inmate with the family, but if they were rather than a visitor. I was taken there they'd say 'Come in, child, to see some people who would come in'. The butler would never say that." (Mrs Brown)

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Rose Maddocks, born in Dublin in 1913: 'We never got a proper education. All we got was prayers' David Rose

WOMEN

"THEY WERE treated badly. They hardly ever went out, they were too busy at home making ends meet. When a girl did go out, she always came home to questions, 'Where've you been, oo've you been talking to'." (Mrs Brown)

tom. We never got a proper ed-The men kept them down a lot. ucation. All we got was annoys me. To talk about your prayers." (Mrs Maddocks)

"I don't want to boast but me and my wife always went out together. That was unusual. I played darts once a week for I never knew they were mar-

"You were down at the bot- ried. I can never stand hearing I spent all day on the bike and a man doing his wife down, it wife as "the old woman", that's terrible." (Mr Proudfoot)

"I'D BE about 13 at the time and years with a group of fellers and I got a brand new bike for

got soaked." (Mr Proudfoot) "My uncle who was in the

Lancers died and it finished my grandfather off. But at the end of the war my mother took us all up to Hyde Park to a concert . Dame Clara Butt was singing. Lovely. I'll always remember Christmas. It was pouring, but that." (Mrs Brown)

"Being here [the Westminster centre]." (Mrs Maddocks)

THERE WASN'T much of it to begin with. You know what they used to say at the butcher's. A sheep's head please and can you leave the eyes in? It's got to see through us through the week." (Mr Proudfoot)

Bacon and egg, dripping and bread. Good beef dripping." (Mrs Maddocks) And it doesn't seem to

have done us any harm." (Mr

MISSING THINGS

-PEACE AND quiet. It's all noise now, everything blaring." (Mrs Brown, to the sound of the hokey cokey from the day's exercise class) Manners. I was taught to say

please and thank you and good morning, Everybody's in a rush, everybody wants to get things done too quickly." (Mr Proudfoot)

POLITICIANS

TO MY mind, the only one who was true to his word was Winston Churchill, He promised us blood, sweat and tears. And by God we got them." (Mr Proudfoot)

THE FUTURE I WONDERED if they believed

in the after-life. 'We have to believe there's a heaven. But we'll have to wait and see." (Mrs Brown)

"Nobody's ever come back to tell us." (Mrs Maddocks)

"So it must be a good place." (Mrs Brown)

"Probably three square meals a day and all found." (Mr Proudfoot

AS MR Proudfoot almost put it. they had all been on the platform when the innovations that define the 20th century had arrived. Radio, television, phones. cars. jets. computers. central heating - amazing changes for a generation who had spent their childhood evenings in the light of coalfires, oil lamps and candles.

Of course, we know all this from books and television documentaries. We can easily be connected to the past. Or can we? I had never heard of the Silvertown explosion before Mrs Brown remembered it. Even quite detailed histories of London do not mention it. Eventually, I found a description. It happened in 1917 during a fire at Brunner Mond's chemical works. Fifty tons of TNT went up, a large area was flattened. 69 people died and another 400 were hurt, many seriously. In the war, it was nothing.

The site lies just across the Thames from the new Millennium Dome at Greenwich. When and if I go to the Dome. I will think of the scene for a moment: wrecked houses, dead munitions girls, the water shaking in the river for the 10 miles up to Chelsea. It deserves to be remembered. That will be Mrs Brown's gift to me.

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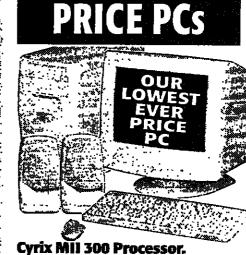
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THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

Shield 'killed' in **Bronze** Age ritual

By STEVE CONNOR Science Editor

A CEREMONIAL shield from the Bronze Age may have been ritually "killed" and then buried according to archaeologists who have spent the past year restoring the object.

The decorative shield, the first from the Bronze Age to be recovered from an archaeological site in Britain, was stabbed three times as it lay in the hole it was buried in.

Andrew Wilson, the conser vator at Wiltshire County Council who excavated it, said the soil beneath showed signs that the object had been deliberately speared from above by a sharp pole or lance. The 3,000-year-old shield, found at South Cadbury, Somerset would also have had little military use

'The shield was so incredibly thin that it could have had no protective function - it could



Andrew Wilson puts the final touches to the restoration of the 3000-year-old bronze shield

lan, freed earlier this year from a Saudi jail, agreed that she was pictured by a bank security camera days after a pensioner's bank card went missing from a hospital, a court heard yesterday But Ms McLauchlan, 33, was unable to explain to police her presence at the bank's cash machine, an officer said.

Pc Helen Manini, of Tayside Police Fraud Branch, was giving evidence on the second day of the trial of the nurse, who faces two charges of theft and one of fraud. Ms McLauchlan, charged in her married name of Ferrie, faces charges relating to a period in 1996 in her home city of Dundee before she

THE NURSE Lucille McLauch- BY JOE QUINN

Saudi nurse

left for Saudi Arabia. Later that year she and another nurse, Deborah Parry, were arrested by Saudi police investigating the murder of the Australian nurse Yvonne Gilford. Ms Parry was sentenced to death for murder and Ms McLauchlan was jailed for eight years. They were freed after serving 17 months and re-

bank camera'

turned to Britain. Pc Manini told Dundee Sheriff Court that in April 1996 she was investigating an alleged bank-card theft when she and a colleague studied film from a camera at a Bank of Scotland branch in Nethergate, Dundee. The sequence, taken on 11 March 1996, showed a woman

> parently keying in entries and staying longer than other customers, as if making more than one transaction. She told the court she visited Ms McLauchlan's home on

spending time at a key pad, ap-

tape." She said Ms McLauchlan told officers she had no Bank of Scotland cards. Although she agreed it was her picture in the photographs, she was unable to give an explanation for her presence at the

Two women said to have provided references to help Ms

McLauchlan get a job in Saudi Arabia told the court they had not written them and that their signatures were forgeries. Tracy Aitken, a former nurse, said a reference for Ms McLauchlan purporting to be from her was false. She had previously provided Ms McLauchlan with a reference but the one presented to a Saudi recruitment firm was not the one she had written. Referring to errors in the letter, Mrs Aitken said: "Obviously this has been typed by somebody who cannot work the correction ribbon on the typewriter. I take pride in my typing. I would never send a reference with scored-out typing

errors like this." A second "referee", Lorraine Deuchars, told the hearing before Sheriff Alistair Stewart that she was a lower grade nurse than Ms McLauchlan and would not have been in a position to write a reference even if asked to do so.

Ms McLauchlan has plead-10 April: "I recognised her from ed not guilty to stealing a bank the still photographs on the card and diary in March 1996 while working at Dundee's King's Cross Hospital, and of stealing £1,960 by means of a feloniously obtained bank card.

She also denies getting her job in Saudi Arabia that year by fraud by making false claims in an application form to a recruiting agency, and offering

Virgin forces full fares on rail travellers

son's troubled train business, was yesterday accused of fares from more than 50

Virgin, which runs the West Coast main line and Cross-Country high-speed services, is cutting the number of trains that accept Saver, Supersaver and cheap day returns from 3 January. Passengers on peak-time

trains will have to buy the more expensive standard or first class tickets. A London to Manchester return ticket will cost £108. A Supersaver was £39.50 and a Saver was £46.50.

The company is also tightening its Virgin Value ticket to force passengers to book three working days in advance instead of the current deadline of 6pm on the day before travel. Virgin said the changes were designed to encourage people

to travel on the less crowded offpeak trains and to book. Jonathan Bray, of the campaign group Save Our Railways, said: "This latest move by Vir-

The policy was a sign that Virgin is aiming at the business travel market at the expense of the leisure passenger, he said. "It is another indication that the long distance companies are moving towards airline fare which means that if you wall? to travel, book in advance otherwise travel when they

trains between London and Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Preston and Wolverhampton. The change also affects trains on the Cross-Country network of services that de not stop in London.

seat by booking in advance."

VIRGIN RAIL, Richard Bran- By PHILIP THORNTON Transport Correspondent driving its passengers on to the gin will make rail travel more roads by banning cut-price complicated and expensive for passengers. If rail is to compete effectively with the car it needs to be convenient and flexible."

want you to," he said. The new rules apply to

A Virgin spokesman said: "We are very anxious to reduce overcrowding wherever possible and we are trying to encourage as many passengers as possible to get a guaranteed

MILLENNIUM BUG WATCH

IT HAS begun. The legal wrangling, that is, over exactly who is responsible when problems occur, or look like they are going to. Both cases here are from the United States, but it is only a matter of time before such legal resorts cross the Atlantic.

First, Ruth Kaczmarek, an independent programmer who develops products that use Microsoft's Foxpro database, is suing the software giant, claiming it pro-vided a package called Visual Foxpro 6.0, despite knowing it has a glitch. On Microsoft's own Year 2000 page it is made plain that the program assumes two-digit year dates

are in the 20th century. Ms Kaczmarek wants Microsoft to write a "patch" but Microsoft doesn't.



Meanwhile, consulting firm Arthur Andersen is suing one of its customers, retailing company J Baker, which had the cheek to demand a free upgrade for a sales system Andersen's had supplied. Andersen claims in its suit that J Baker knew the system relied on a two-digit date system. Is this sounding familiar?

CHARLES ARTHUR

Please send tips and tales to bug@independent.co.uk

PAUL VALLELY



Even paganism, it



seems, is not what it was. Happy holidays!

IN THE WEEKEND REVIEW PAGE 6



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Time fails to heal wounds of Lockerbie victim's family

OUTSIDE, in the pitch-black By MARY BRAID winter night, it is just beginning to drizzle. In an isolated country house, south of Birmingham, Jane and Jim Swire are huddling in a back room, watching themselves on television.

The second secon

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rei it

It is the documentary's grainy 1960s cine-camera footage which makes them smile. There, on Jim's home island of Skye, is Flora, their first born, venturing into the sea in that rocking, toddler way, that up against the family's watched by a younger, pretty needs. Jane, and Jim, handsome in a

A tape, recorded at Christmas in 1977 and borrowed by the television production team. starts off the tears. The sound of a teenage Flora singing in harmony with her younger sister. Cathy, fills the room. That is followed by Flora singing with an older man. "That's me and Flora," says Jim, his eyes drifting from the television to rest despondently on his feet.

A brief glimpse of happier, sunnier times when neither parent could have imagined that their Flora, at the age of 24 and so full of promise. would be rubbed out by the terrorist bomb which blew Pan Am Flight 103 out of the sky over the Scottish town of Lockerbie. The atrocity, on 21 December 1988, claimed 270 lives, includ-

and courtship of the media have meant family neglect. Devotion to a dead child has cost the surviving siblings.

The Swires do not hide their differences, and even joke that Flora speaks to them in different voices. Father hears a daughter who tells him to "get the bastards", while mother says Flora would have weighed

Methods of coping diverged from the start. Jim, against all the expert advice, insisted on seeing Flora's body. "But I wanted to remember her as she was when I hugged her goodbye and not as a battered body." says Jane.

She admits she envied her husband his anger, a force which propelled him into a frenetic search, not just for the killers but for truth. He learnt to lobby and studied almost every terrorist group which could possibly have been

He now believes that warnings of an imminent terrorist attack were kept from the public. He raised questions about the reluctance of previous British and United States governments to hold a public inquiry into the disaster, suggesting ing 11 from Lockerbie who per- they must have something to



The bomb claimed 270 lives

Daily Record

ished when Pan Am's burning hide. His anger still burns. He governments have failed to find the killers. For 10 years Jim seems only to have lived to harass politicians.

Jim Swire was always tall and thin. But the past decade has is no more. And her greatest hollowed him out, leaving him cadaverous. As spokesman for the relatives of the British bomb victims, his snowy hair and care-worn face are now familiar.

Jane, open-faced and motherly, is, by comparison, hardly known. And without her husband she would have preserved her anonymity. For while the Old Etonian, Bromsgrove GP has taken a high-profile, public path, Jane - quiet and gentle but courageously honest - does not pretend to like his choice. Nor does she pretend that it has made Cathy or Flora's younger brother William happy.

"This is Jim's way," she says simply as her husband, mobile phone stuck on ear, resumes the endless fielding of calls from journalists whose appetite for Lockerbie has been rewhetted by the 10th anniversary on Monday, and the news that the Libyan parliament has backed a proposal for two of its nationals - suspects in the attack - to be tried in a neutral country, under Scottish law.

"He needed to do it," she says, of a husband whose obsession with tracking down his daughter's killers led to the loss of his partnership in the local medical practice. "Otherwise he would have had a breakdown. But he has paid a heavy price."

So too have his family. "He tries to join in with family things," says Jane. "But his mind is elsewhere and often he's so physically tired." Years of globetrotting - including three controversial meetings with Colonel Muammar

wreckage fell to earth. Western did not raise Flora, he says, as "political cannon fodder".

Jane found no comfort in complex terrorist conspiracies or public campaigns. The ultimate truth for her is that Flora regret - however irrational - is still that she was not there for her daughter at the end.

She has read everything about the disintegration of planes. When she learned there might have been up to 15 seconds of consciousness, she sat alone, timing the period again and again on the kitchen clock.

She could not bear the thought that there was time for realisation and terror, and time for pain. "But a large plane like that does not just break up in a few seconds and our senses are designed to take things in so quickly," she says.

Unlike many of the relatives, she found no comfort in the return of Flora's belongings, or the grave stone erected for her daughter on their beloved Skye, overlooking the water in which she once paddled. "I cannot find Flora in stone," she says. "She was such a free spirit and her death was such a waste of all the energy and effort she put into life."

The former religious education teacher prefers not to talk about her post-Lockerbie religious convictions. But clearly they are shaken.

Every day she confronts the dead weight of grief, while presenting as positive a face as possible for her children. William was only 16 when Flora died. Her husband, meanwhile. rides a never-ending emotional roller-coaster.

This week he is on a high, for these are encouraging times. In the early years Margaret Thatcher would not even see Gaddafi and a string of overseas the relatives of those who died, trips to lobby world leaders - let alone grant their request for



a public inquiry. Now the US and British governments are backing the proposal for Scottish justice to be exercised on foreign soil.

Jim doubts the Libyans killed his daughter but believes their trial will open "other avenues". A can of worms, he is sure, is about to be prised open. After his meeting earlier this month with Tony Blair he believes the Government will grant the investigation into security and intelligence that the families have been campaigning for for years.

Jim's high is a mixed blessing. His wife is pleased that he is happy. But if the trial comes to nothing a deep depression will almost certainly follow.

They have been there before. But for now there is hope, and, for Jim. at least, gallons of soothing, reassuring, media interest. "The media have sometimes been my only friends," he says. "And I've learned you always have to be available for them ... The worst thing would be if they lost interest." So all day journalists have

trooped through Jane's kitchen. er he designed five years ago to

mainly to see Jim and take pictures of the huge painting of Flora by the father of the American boyfriend she was flying to visit. The portrait shows the adult Flora. Jim describes as a stunning combination of "brains

and beauty", on the brink of a

promising medical career. Even at 9pm. tools can be heard buzzing from a distant room. Jim's activity seldom ceases, though as a doctor he knows this may be dangerous grief displacement. He is repairing a mirrored candle hold-

Lockerbie's fifth anniversary. On Monday at the British relatives' commemoration service at Westminster Abbey it will be used again.

In the past 10 years the numbers of families attending trial. But who could blame her public commemorations have if she would rather it had been dwindled. Some prefer to mark someone else's husband. the day in private. But deaths have also reduced numbers.

grief took them on different paths, Jane admits even she

mount 270 candles to mark reached the conclusion that everyone reacts differently. She is proud Jim's energy and courage have taken the campaign so far. What else but absolute commitment could bring about even the possibility of a

The relatives are gathering from stress-related illnesses at Westminster to take the heat off Lockerbie. It is no secret that Families have also split. As many in the town would like to move on. Jane will be at the considered leaving. But she for Jim's sake that I will go," she griel."

says, "In a terrible situation like this you just help each other survive. Because really that is

all you are doing ... surviving." There is no upbeat end to this story. Little appears to have brought the Swires real comfort since their daughter's unnecessary death. Time has not healed.

Jane says journalists, like her husband, are more comfortable with the campaign story than a sadness which has no end. "Even a conviction," Westminster service. "But it is she warns, "is no cure for







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Whips conspired to score direct hit on democracy

THE GOVERNMENT'S whips behaved disgracefully during the debate on the Iraq conflict. The result was, of course, a foregone conclusion and, in any case, a lost vote would not have mattered since the debate was held on the technical motion "to adjourn".

But by failing to supply tellers when the Deputy Speaker put the question, the division was cancelled. As a result, on an issue with profound moral, ethical and national dimensions, the Labour dissenters were prevented from registering their protest.

This seemed even more astounding given Tony Blair's intervention, in which he reminded George Galloway, one of his leading critics, that the MP for Glasgow Kelvin was fortunate to be able to speak against the Government in a way denied to opponents of Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq.

The viciousness with which Labour treated Mr Galloway, Tony Benn and others was demeaning to Parliament. Any MP should surely be allowed to speak and vote as he or she pleases on such an issue, however unpopular their arguments. And there can be little question that Tory business managers conspired with Labour whips in this ploy.

The worst Labour lap dog was the surprising figure of Dale Campbell Savours, who once enjoyed a reputation as a parliamentary terrier. Now reduced to abusing Tam Dalyell, he claimed that it was outrageous for MPs even to argue about the issues, Mr Dalvell, Mr.

THE WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Galloway and Mr Benn may be fully paid-up members of the awkward squad but their records of defending freedom and democracy are better than most of those in Westminster

MICHAEL BROWN

I ATTENDED the right-wing No Turning Back Group annual Christmas dinner in honour of its president, Baroness Thatcher, on the evening of the final Lords debate on the European Elections Bill. Voting, however, came before old cronies for the former prime

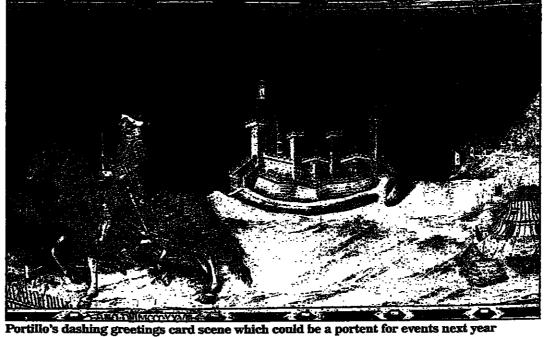
mouthful of turkey than she swept off into the night to attend the Lords for a division, desperate to give a final kick to proportional representation before the Bill automatically becomes law under the

Parliament Act. Cheated of the opportunity of hearing replays of their heroine's past glories, the Tory MPs went back to the Commons for the 10pm vote. Three former members, defeated at the election but invited for old time's sake, stayed behind to enjoy a brandy, only to find themselves joined by the returning Lady Thatch-er, who forced them to endure an hour-long monologue, encompassing Europe, the Falklands War and, of course, the Pinochet case.

Her greatest ire was reserved for Jack Straw, the Home Secretary. Clearly, she retains strong memories of the trouble he caused her when she was education secretary ("Milk Snatcher Thatcher") and he was the president of the National Union of Students nearly 30 years ago. Sadly, there was not a word out of turn about William Hague.

MARTIN BELL, the Independent MP for Tatton, is concerned about the threat to democracy posed by the Registration of Political Parties Act, which has just reached the statute book.

Mr. Bell has received a letter from the Registrar inviting him to register as a political party. Under the Act he is not allowed to register as "independent" and asks Hardly had she swallowed a what he is expected to do. "What stand as an independent member



Party, the Flat Earth Party or the Knutsford Heath Party? It doesn't make sense," he says.

Mr Bell's principal concern was for independent-minded members of established parties. From now on it will be against the law to stand as independent Labour, independent Conservative or independent Liberal Democrat. The provision prohibits the right of an individual who has fallen out with his party to

else should I be? The Tatton Park of that party, which would, for example, stop Ken Coates from standing for the European parliament next year as an independent Labour candidate. The Act also applies to local government.

Mr Bell believes space must be

given to free spirits, independentminded people and people outside the system. "They do not threaten the system but reinforce it by adding legitimacy to the members of established parties who get elect-

The Government, unsurprisingly, disagrees. According to George Howarth, the Home Office minister, "the conjunction of the words 'independent' and 'party' is probably a tautology". And there was no hint of irony in his voice.

THE SO-CALLED "free vote" on modernisation turned out to be a farce with Labour whips patrolling the entrance to the division lobbies. All Labour MPs, except the former

chief whip Derek Foster, voted to begin morning sittings on Thursdays while Conservatives voted against the proposal. There will rarely be votes on Thursdays and with Prime Minister's Question Time now on Wednesdays there is little reason for MPs to stay in Westminster beyond Wednesday evening.

During the debate there was also growing concern over a proposal to consider the introduction of a "main committee". All MPs would be members of this committee which would sit in parallel and at the same time as the chamber to consider non-controversial legislation and select committee reports.

The proposal is modelled on the Australian parliament. Although there was no formal recommendation before the House it is the intention to return to the proposal. Given that the chamber is already empty most of the time, a "main committee" will provide yet another way of neutralising the mother of

AS I finish this column, William Hague's gruesome Christmas card featuring a lonely shepherd leading seven sheep across a snowy wilderness under a black threatening sky arrives in the same post as Michael Portillo's colourful, 17inch scene of a Sienese general riding victoriously towards his palazzo. A portent of things to come next year, one can't help

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Portillo wants a moderate campaign

MICHAEL PORTILLO warned By Andrew Grice and fellow Eurosceptics yesterday that their campaign against the single currency could be blunted by their resorting to

The former Tory cabinet Europhobe groups in London that potential supporters of the campaign could be "driven away through the use of extremist language". He described himself as "one who has not always spoken moderately in the past".

The motives of the founding fathers of the Treaty of Rome, who aimed to rid the continent of wars, were "understandable", he said. But he warned: "It is complete folly to believe that you will abolish extreme nationalism in Europe by abolishing nation states in Europe. When we risk creating again a lack of democracy and causes of contention and grievance in Europe, that is dangerous not just for Britain but for all our continent."

Mr Portillo was speaking at the launch of the Congress for Democracy, which has been set up to seek to bring together the many groups who oppose the single currency. The groups' impact has been weakened by divisions and rivalries amongst themselves.

The organisers included and Sir Michael Spicer, a Tory MP and leader of the European Research Group. This has been at odds with the rival European Foundation headed by Bill Cash, another Tory MP whose presence at yesterday's launch defence of sterling".

SARAH SCHAEFER

was seen as a hopeful sign that a united front might be forged against the euro. Sharp differences emerged

minister told a conference of during a debate on tactics. Pam Safeguards Campaign, accused the Business for Sterling Group of "letting down" British trade because they were in favour of a single market when 80 per cent of British businesses were trading within Britain. "We want you to come out and say 22 you want a free trade area," she said. Similar criticism was voiced by Lord Pearson of Rannoch, a Tory peer and prominent member of the Global Britain Group. Bernard Jenkin, Tory MP for Essex North, cautioned the different groups that "everyone had axes to grind

and packages to buckle". Peter Lewis, who organised the campaign for a referendum on the Maastricht treaty, added: "We have to be focused and must be disciplined ... otherwise they will always use the argument it is us against them and we will lose it."

About 250 representatives from 50 organisations, including trade unions, political parties and pressure groups, agreed a statement warning that the single currency was "designed to Labour MP Austin Mitchell bring about political as well as economic union" and would mean interest, exchange and tax rates being set by institutions not accountable to the British people. They agreed to mount "a national campaign in

British fishermen's quota shows net loss

THE GOVERNMENT won concessions on several smaller fishing quotas last night, to compensate for big reductions in Britain's right to exploit traditional stocks.

After 17 hours of negotiations in Brussels, Eliot Morley, Fisheries Minister, won agreement for a deal he estimated was worth £30m more for Britain's fishing industry than the European Commission's proposal.

ropean Commission's proposal. However, Mr Morley did ac-cept swingeing cuts in big quo-tas, including those for herring off the west coast of Scotland and haddock in the North Sea. In both those cases Britain

scientific advice that the re-

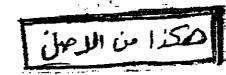
By Stephen Castle in Brussels

ductions were vital to conserve fish stocks for future years. However, there was no attempt to disguise the fact that the quotas for next year will leave many of the country's 10,000 fishermen worse off, and the consumer facing higher prices.

The fishing industry was divided on the deal. Hamish Morrison, of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, described the cuts as "disastrous". But Barrie Deas, chief executive of the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, said agreed with the commission's it "was a successful exercise against ... extreme proposals".

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Mother fights dynasty in Spain for son

A WOMAN from London is bat- By ELIZABETH NASH tling to win back her young son from members of one of Spain's most influential families who took the boy away from her.

Joanna Atfield fell for Daniel Mazin, a talented and fascinating Spanish businessman. She moved in with him and they had a baby, now aged two and a half. The relationship, always stormy, faltered during the pregnancy and collapsed soon after the birth.

Now Mr Mazin wants sole charge of the child and to stop Ms Atfield seeing him. On 23 October, in what she says was a carefully planned operation. Mr Mazin took their son out of nursery school in Madrid and she has not seen or spoken to the boy since. She says her struggle to keep her son in her life is "psychological torture".

Mr Mazin is arguing, through his lawyers, that Ms Atfield is mentally unstable and an unfit mother. Devastated and vulnerable in a foreign land, she fears losing her son

On 2 December she went to court to seek interim measures to get her son back until the question of legal custody is resolved, but the judge adjourned the hearing for social and psychological reports.

Ms Atfield, 34, says the odds are stacked against her because Spanish law gives the father equal claim, irrespective of

and because while she comes from a modest home near King's Cross, the wealthy and discreet Mazin family is one of the most powerful in Spain.

Daniel Mazin's father, Max, by his father. is leader of the country's Jewish community, a pioneer of Spain's entrepreneurs' association, and a major shareholder in a big hotel chain and a clutch of property companies. The family is linked by marriage and friendship to Spanish nobility and members of Jose Maria Aznar's conservative

Until shortly before he took their son, Daniel Mazin worked for an old friend of his father's, the international commodities millionaire Marc Rich. Mr Rich fled the United States for Switzerland after he was indicted by a Federal grand jury in New York in 1983 on charges of tax evasion, racketeering and participating in illegal oil deals with Iran.

"The Mazins are now saying I got pregnant deliberately to trap their son, which I didn't. It was an accident. But I knew immediately I wanted that

Lacking money and power-ful friends, Ms Atfield says she feels "absolutely trapped. If I go quietly, I'll never see my son again. If I fight, I'm afraid they'll destroy me. It's like David and

Goliath, they're out of my

She met the father of her child at a party in March 1994. "For me it was love at first sight," Ms Atfield said, describing Mr Mazin as a brilliant, volatile person overshadowed

When she became pregnant in September 1985, she accepted the family's proposal that she convert to Judaism.

"I tried everything to make the relationship work, and I have great respect for Daniel's father. I spent two hours every day with the rabbi in the synagogue that Max had built in Madrid. Then in December, I went to Jerusalem to complete the studies, and came back converted. But Daniel detested me the more pregnant I got."

In March 1997, nine months after the baby was born. Mr Mazin moved out of the home they shared to a flat nearby that his mother found in one of Madrid's most distinguished

"He would come round, flanked by members of the family, insisting on taking my baby away for visits. It broke my

Pressed by the Mazins, she attended a number of psychiatric clinics in London, New York and Arizona, recommended by Daniel Mazin's own psychiatrist. "I thought it would help improve matters with the family." The Mazins have sub-



Joanna Atfield at her mother's home in King's Cross, London, calls the struggle to keep her son in her life 'psychological torture' Neville Elder

mitted to court a damning report from one clinic as evidence that she is mentally unstable. "But I never wanted to go to these clinics. It's true I lost it sometimes and shouted and screamed. But it wasn't because I was ill, but because

they were tormenting me." Ms Atfield's lawyer, Jaime Sanz de Bremon, says the family obtained a medical report illicitly, without her authorisation. "This amounts to a violation of rights in Spain and it must be considered in-

admissible evidence. The content of that report, describing her as psychotic and addicted to caffeine, alcohol and nicotine, is anyway open to ques-

pendent psychiatrist who has human terms, his action is seen her. She got into a nervous state because her personal circumstances were made so unbearable." In Spanish law, Mr Mazin has

Joanna is not mentally un- the legal right to take the child. stable, according to an inde- Ms Atfield's lawyer said, "but in

completely unjust". Daniel Mazin's lawyer, Cristina Pena. said yesterday: "I'm bound by a code of professional secrecy and I can't talk to anyone unrelated to the case." Daniel

Woman to sue over unlawful sacking

A WOMAN dismissed after tak- BY BARRIE CLEMENT ng two years off in maternity ave and with pregnancy complications is to seek six-figure employers, who were yesterday found to have been guilty of sex discrimination.

In a key test of the rights of working women, the Court of Appeal decided IGE Medical Systems, a US company, acted unlawfully when it sacked Marion Halfpenny. The ruling clarifies the position of women who

complications in pregnancy and problems such as post-natal depression and then want to return to work.

1.00

Yesterday Mrs Halfpenny said: "This is the best Christmas present I could get. I am ecstatic with the result - the injustice of my case was the motivation behind my decision to take legal action."

Mrs Halfpenny, 39, of Broadbottom. Cheshire, became pregnant in 1994 and took paid sick leave from August of that year until March 1995, when her eternity leave began.
In September 1995 she told

managers she would be back by the end of the following month. But on 13 October she asked for a postponement, because she had post-natal depression but her employers refused to extend her leave beyond 27 November. When Mrs Halfpenny was unable to return on that date, IGE said her contract was at an end.

She went to an industrial triburnal, which ruled in favour of Court of Appeal's ruling was a



Marion Halfpenny: Wants six-figure compensation

the employer on grounds she had not returned to work and therefore was not employed and could not be dismissed.

The Employment Appeals Tribunal agreed with the lowercourt decision. The company, which has an equal-opportunities policy, has registered its intention to appeal to the Lords against yesterday's ruling.

Clare Hockney, principal legal officer with the Equal Opportunities Commission, which backed the case, said the

"landmark decision" and would have a big impact on many other female employees.

'Mrs Halfpenny was exceplong-standing employee," Ms Hockney said. "Her sickness record was excellent until she became pregnant. Unfortunately, she suffered illness during pregnancy and post-natal depression. As soon as she became well enough, Mrs Halfpenny made strenuous efforts to return to work. All she wanted was to be treated the same as any other employee." The court was told that a

male employee who had been on long sick leave had been treated more leniently than Mrs Halfpenny. Mrs Halfpenny is now study-

ing law and wants to specialise in discrimination and employment affairs. She registered her determination to seek damages for loss of earnings and injured feelings. Legislation imposes no upper limit on compensation for sex discrimination.

In his ruling Lord Justice Ward said she was a "linchpin" in the Cheshire office of the company. Originally her employers were sympathetic and agreed to extend her leave, but eventually management said that she could not have her job back. In doing so, IGE was deemed to have dismissed her unfairly. The judges also found it amounted to sex discrimination, because her treatment was less favourable than that of

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Revenge killings terrorise Kosovo

KOSOVO SEEMS poised to endure a terrifying Christmas, marked by tit-for-tat killings. kidnappings, knocks on the door at night and car jackings on lonely country roads.

Yesterday, the body of the deputy mayor of the town of Kosovo Polje was found dumped on a road near the a nearby village by armed gunmen on Thursday night. The murder will send a shiv-

er up the spines of the province's fast dwindling Ser-200,000, surrounded as they Serbs in the western city of Pec, are by almost 10 times as many

Kosovo Polje is one of the few towns in the province with a Battle of Kosovo in 1389, the curity forces.

most important date in Serbs' national consciousness.

The abduction conforms to a growing pattern. After the failure of an armed uprising against Serb rule in the spring, and its brutal suppression by the Serb military, the province's town. Zvonko Bojanic, a Serb. Albanian majority is turning to was dragged from his home in a war of attrition, killing local Serb officials and even civilians, instead of confronting the armed might of the Serbian state head on.

Earlier this week gunmen bian community of about burst into a café frequented by and gunned down six men.

The sporadic killings, reported to be the work of the an Albanian guerrilla force called large Serb population, and its the Kosovo Liberation Army, name carries great resonance are, as ever, meeting a violent with Serbs as the site of the response from the Serbian se-



Kosovo Serbs show pictures of missing relatives. Tit-for-tat killings and kidnappings have undermined the province's fragile truce Reuters

nounced they had killed 36 Kosovo fighters on the border with Albania proper. Yesterday, they were reported to have sealed off sections of the city of Pec and the nearby village of Glodiane and to have killed at least two Albanians.

Belgrade's hold over Kosovo. the government yesterday prevented the publication of the province's main Albanian language daily, Bujku, under a new information law passed in October against media

In another effort to bolster constitutional order. The law has been used extensively in Serbia proper to muzzle opponents of the government of President Slobodan Milosevic, Serbia's ruler since 1987.

The cycle of murders suggest strongly that the breathdeemed threatening to Serbia's ing space gained by an October

truce brokered by the United States, against a background of threatened air strikes against Belgrade authorities. Serbia, is fast closing.

That agreement, cobbled together by the trouble-shooting US diplomat, Richard Holbrooke, envisaged fast progress

vo's future constitutional status between the Albanians and the

Since then no talks have taken place, while the latest killings on both sides make the prospect of discussions even beginning in the New Year look

the new perfume of Paris*

By JOHN LICHFIELD in Paris

THE SMELL of the Metro something between burnt air and rotting bananas - is a characteristic Parisian experience: as much a part of the city for visitors as the Eiffel Tower or the Champs Elysées.

The magic formula is, or used to be, a delicate blend of scorched rubber, sweat and sewers. It also used to include the heavy scent of Gauloises and Gitanes, until cigarettes were banned from the Paris underground a decade ago.

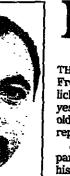
In recent years, that trademark aroma has deteriorated for other reasons. Some of the homeless people who spend their days in Metro stations treat the corridors and, even the platforms, as lavatories.

The Régie Autonome des Transports Parisiens (RATP), which runs all public transport in the French capital, commissioned an opinion poll to discover why Parisians were using the Métro less. A common reply was: "Ca pue." (It stinks):

The company decided to put things right for the centenary of the Métro in 12 months' time. In an experiment launched yesterday, one station is being suffused with a scent, especially designed by one of the big French perfume workshops.

The fragrance, described as having a "hint of spring flowers", will be mixed with cleaning agents and applied daily to the platforms, corridors and floors of the Invalides station. If successful, it will be applied to all 366 stations on the system.

The RATP is also working on a more technologically advanced solution: the use 🏕 ultra-violet light to smash the molecules hanging in the air which create bad odours. Either way, the old Métro smell seems likely to go the way of berets and yellow car-headlights. Another "exception Française" is



Le Pen forces rivals to sit on the fringe

THE FAR-RIGHT National Front symbolically and publicly divided into two parties yesterday, confirming a 10-day old schism which now seems ir-

Jean-Marie Le Pen, the party's founder president, and his internal rival, Bruno Megret, "met" for the first time since the NF imploded. They each took their seats in the re-

By JOHN LICHFIELD in Paris

gional assembly for Provence, the Alps and the Côte d'Azur in Marseilles. Previously, they had sat side by side. Yesterday they sat apart, proudly avoiding one another's gaze, and surrounded by their respective

At Mr Le Pen's insistence,

Mr Megret and 10 of the 37 NF fought, in part, with infantile regional councillors were made pique of this kind. But it has also to sit apart from the rest of the group. Also at Mr Le Pen's insistence, they sat to the far right of the assembly, even further to the right than the NF president and his loyalists.

The battle between the two wings of the NF - the Le Pen loyalists and purists and the Mégret modernisers - has been

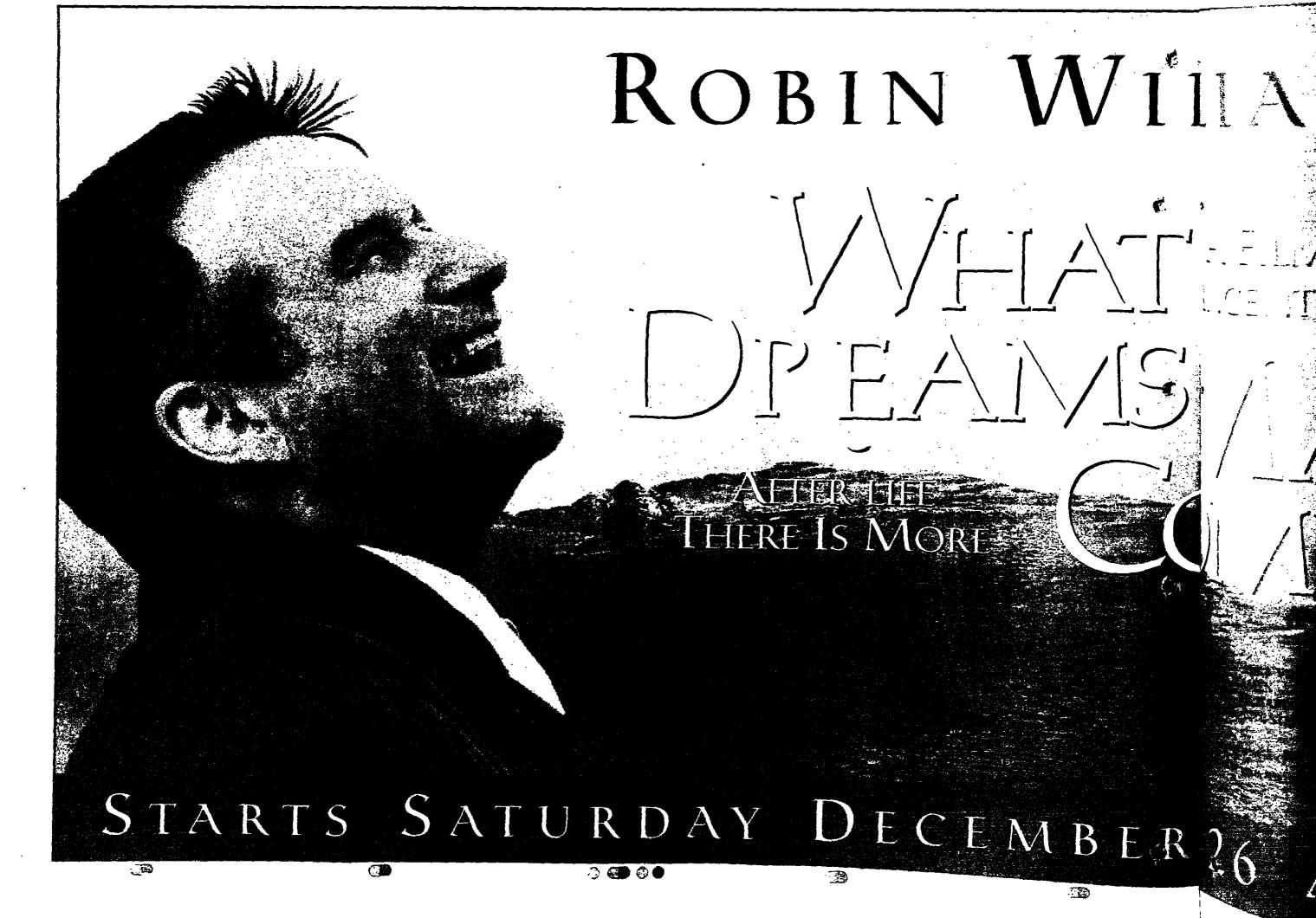
developed into a legal struggle for the party's money and the

As Mr Megret put it: "The historic Front is them. The real Front is us. The problem now is to decide which of us is the legal Front." His supporters say they have more than the 20 per cent of signatures of NF

members they need to call an emergency conference to decide the party's future. Mr Le Pen refuses to countenance such a meeting. The Mégretistes will go ahead anyway and hold their congress at Marignane, north of Marseilles, on 24 January, It will almost certainly declare Mr Le Pen deposed and elect Mr Mégret as head of his "real" NF. First in-

dications from around the country are that the party has been carved down the middle. Although Mr Le Pen took the majority of NF regional coun-

cillors in the south. Mr Mégret has the overwhelming majority in Lorraine and exactly half in the Paris region. He also has two of the four NF mayors (including his wife) and more than half the NF national council. | about to disappear.



the windows and a sign saying "Welcome to the Disney Club". It is the one flash of colour in an uncompromisingly cold, grey panorama.

Snow has been shovelled into neat piles along the gravel paths that divide one clump of containers from another. A central domed structure houses the electricity generator. Beyond it, a large metal shed with a wooden crucifix and a noticeboard outside, doubles as church and community centre.

The improvised village on the outskirts of Colfiorito, on the slopes of the Appenine mountains, provides shelter for 200 people forced out of their homes by the earthquake that struck central Italy in September 1997. They are facing a second Christmas in makeshift accommodation and are worried it will not be the last.

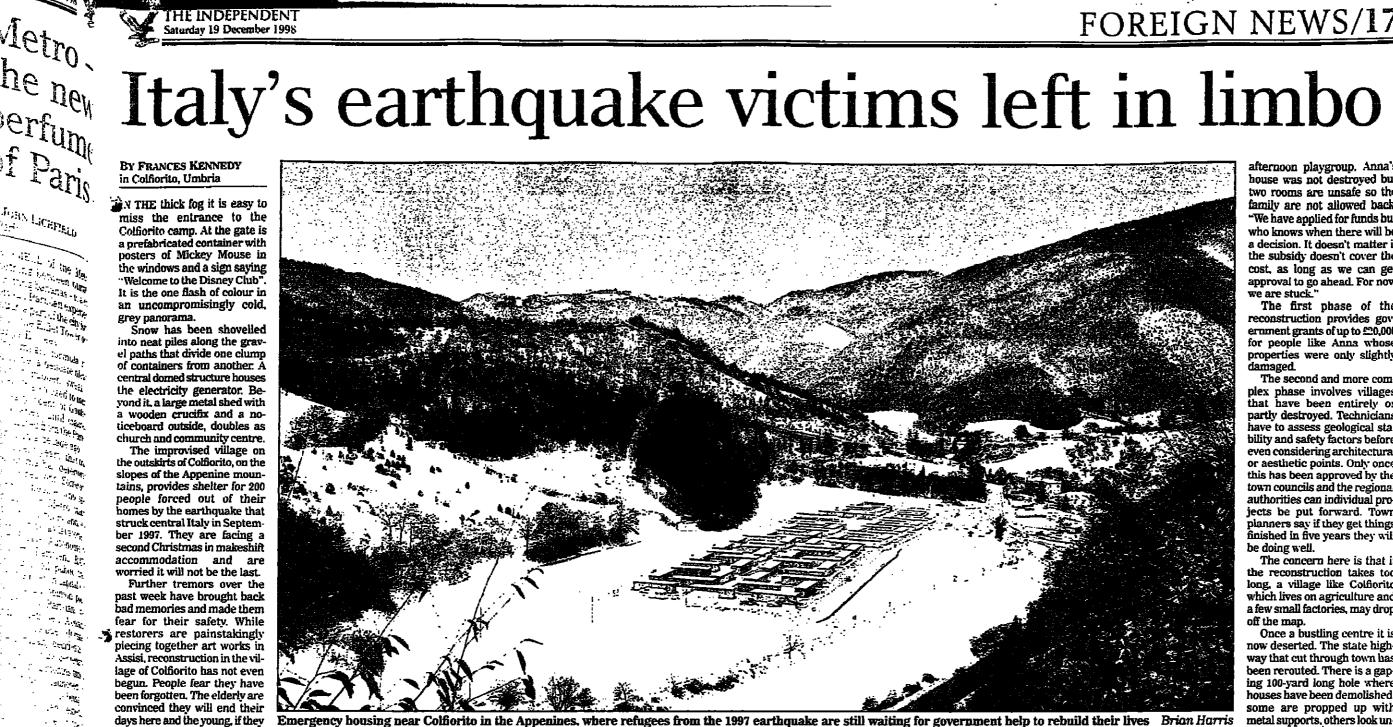
The first transfer of the second seco

w. eening

Further tremors over the past week have brought back bad memories and made them fear for their safety. While restorers are painstakingly piecing together art works in Assisi, reconstruction in the village of Colfiorito has not even begun. People fear they have been forgotten. The elderly are convinced they will end their days here and the young, if they can, are moving out.

One of the lanes in the camp is called Via della Speranza (Hope Street). There, Angelo Forti. 86. lives at number 53 with his Polish-Italian wife, Yadvga. A slight man with twinkly blue eyes, he makes me welcome in the tiny space that functions as kitchen-dining-living room. On the walls are a Mussolini nostalgia calendar, a faded photo of Vir Forti as a young soldier and an assortment of icons and pictures of Our Lady.

"That earthquake destroyed 50 years of my life. My threestorey house was turned into a pile of rubble. They just bulldozed it away. I know they can't rebuild things overnight but I



don't want to die in this con-

tainer," he said. Like many of his fellow camp dwellers, Mr Forti is sensitive about being seen as a victim. "We don't want hand-outs, just a helping hand," he said, warming his hands in front of a gas burner. "I bought that with my own money. My wife couldn't survive another winter with

Much of Mr Forti's pension goes to pay Dora. A plump woman with a wrinkled face and rough hands she cooks, cleans and helps him look after his wife, who is seriously disabled after a stroke. The earthquake that ripped

the electric heaters we had."

through Umbria and the neighbouring Marche region destroved Dora's dream. She and her husband worked for 15 years at the Fiat plant in Turin and were planning to retire to

> "We had finished renovating our old house in late August and were waiting for our furniture to be sent down from Turin.

After the quake it was declared unsafe. We put all our savings into that house so even with a government grant it will be difficult to rebuild." She complains that her daughter, who is 16, already suffers pains in her joints because of the cold.

The situation in Colfiorito is similar to that in other camps scattered throughout the

Appenines. The series of grant. The people left in the quakes that struck central Italy originally left 10,000 people homeless, though many slept outside their houses for fear rather than necessity. Today those whose houses suffered minor damage have gone back home, while others are staying

with relatives or taking advan-

fixing the tractor. Now they container camps are those who don't know what to do with themselves. I am not saving this have no other option, more causes them to die but it cer-

than 30 per cent of them elderly. The Colfiorito camp organiser, Dante Amici, a postman, says the older residents are like uprooted plants. "They were used to a very active existence; tending their vegetable gartage of a government rent dens, making their own wine,

> fabs is at a premium. "We won't be putting out our Christmas crib and we won't be having a big family dinner because there isn't room," said Anna, as she mopped the Disney club floor prior to the mark my words."

tainly doesn't help them to live." Camp life for children is not

much fun either. The Disney

club, complete with Pocahontas

tent, hundreds of videos and an

enormous television, was a do-

nation. This Christmas there

will be more gifts of toys and

clothes but space inside the pre-

afternoon playgroup. Anna's house was not destroyed but two rooms are unsafe so the family are not allowed back. We have applied for funds but who knows when there will be a decision. It doesn't matter if the subsidy doesn't cover the cost, as long as we can get approval to go ahead. For now

we are stuck.' The first phase of the reconstruction provides government grants of up to £20,000 for people like Anna whose properties were only slightly damaged.

The second and more complex phase involves villages that have been entirely or partly destroyed. Technicians have to assess geological stability and safety factors before even considering architectural or aesthetic points. Only once this has been approved by the town councils and the regional authorities can individual projects be put forward. Town planners say if they get things finished in five years they will be doing well.

The concern here is that if the reconstruction takes too long, a village like Colfiorito which lives on agriculture and a few small factories, may drop off the map.

Once a bustling centre it is now deserted. The state highway that cut through town has been rerouted. There is a gaping 100-yard long hole where houses have been demolished: some are propped up with metal supports, others look unharmed but closer inspection reveals buckled walls and bent staircases. One of the few undamaged buildings is the Pizzeria del Pecoraro (the Shepherd's Pizzeria) but paying guests are a rarity these days. The owner, Bruno Ricci, an elderly version of the Marlboro Man, with grey stubble and bloodshot eyes, is bleak. "Colfiorito is not dying, it's dead. They've done nothing here and maybe there is no point," he says.

"In the past there was a big jolt then a few tiddlers and it was all over. This time, the earth hasn't stopped shaking. The big one is still to come.

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY REVIEW

Anne Hanley meets the restorers of St Francis' basilica and the Umbrians left homeless by the Assisi earthquake. Photographs by Brian Harris



Japanese debtors do a vanishing act

THE LOAN sharks had been By RICHARD LLOYD PARRY calling for weeks, but it wasn't until they started talking about his wife that Yoshonari Shiozaki, the grilled octopus seller, decided that the time had come to disappear.

They kept making threats and saying they were going to take her away to work in a massage parlour," he remembers. "It was just after the time when that company president was found in the mountains, murdered by the Yakuza [crime gangs]. I was afraid that I would go the same way or that they would get to my wife. On the day that the money was due, we did a yonige."

The word means "night disappearance", and in Mr Shiozaki's case it was rather simple. "We hired a car, and at midnight my wife. three children, mother-in-law and me just drove out of town.

"All we could think about was the expressway and my wife kept saying, Suppose I turn the wheel right into the traffic instead of left?"

But the Shiozakis reached the statistics, not as suicides or growing ranks of the vanished.

No one knows exactly how liveries in Tokyo. many Japanese choose to disappear, but the indications are younge clients are families. "We

in Tokyo

that their numbers are growing. The Tokyo Yellow Pages confor removals companies offering euphemistic services such as "emergency moving" and "night-time removals".

This week sees the first episode of a new television drama, based on a series of successful films, about the adventures of a firm of yonigeya -"night vanishers", who help people in distress to escape without trace.

Most of the real-life vanishers are reluctant to talk, but one small firm reports that one in 20 of its moves are of people who want to disappear.

In the old days, customers were often women, fleeing violent husbands or lovers, or even eloping couples. These days, as dying. We were driving along in the case of Mr Shiozaki's escape from bankruptcy and debts, the reasons for yonige are increasingly economic.
"This kind of thing has al-

ways gone on, but it became Tokyo safely where they entered much more common when the bubble economy came to an end traffic casualties, but among the about four or five years ago," said the manager of Ai-Ai De-

These days, the typical

take cash in advance," says another remover. "If anyone comes asking what happened to them, we tell them they switched to another car before

they got to their destination." According to police statistics, there was a 17 per cent rise in the number of professionals and managers reported missing last year At the root of this alarming increase is Japan's recession: this week the government's survey of business morale showed that small and medium-sized manufacturers are more pessimistic than at any without it, it was difficult to find time since the polls began 31 years ago. On top of this, Japan is a difficult country in which to suffer failure - not because of a lack of appropriate legislation, but because of social attitudes to debt and bankruptcy.

"This is a country in which bankruptcy is regarded by many people as a crime," says Seiichi Noguchi, who runs a voluntary group for small busimen in financial trouble. "Nine out of 10 people have no idea about the legal measures which can be taken when a business is failing, and they don't understand that bankruptcy laws exist to belp re-

structure a business." Ten per cent of the people who consult Mr Noguchi have previously "vanished". Half of them are single men, but half-like the Shiozakis - are families

People who disappear have a much harder time than those who stay and face up to their problems," says Mr Noguchi, and the experience of the Shiozakis bears this out.

After disappearing from their home in the city of Nagoya in 1980, they began a new life in Tokyo, living in two small rooms. It was too dangerous to change their local residents' registration, which would have alerted their creditors - but a school for the children. "For three years, we were always on edge and afraid that the Yakuza would track us down," Mr Shiozaki remembers. "Whenever I went out I wore dark glasses."

Eventually, with much trepidation, he decided to return to Nagoya, to apologise to his iness partners and creditors - although as a precaution he waited until after most of his financial liabilities had expired.

"I thought that they would spit on me and call me a fool, but the first thing they said was 'How are you, Shiozaki-san?' They helped me set up a new s, and I'm doing pretty well now. I realised that if you run away from something once, then you will be running away for the rest of your life."



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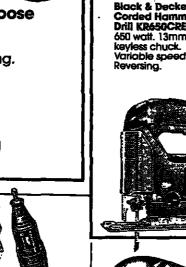
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copy West, vows Jiang

CHINA'S PRESIDENT, Jiang By TERESA POOLE Zemin, celebrated 20 years of economic reform yesterday with a vow that "from beginning to end, we must be vigilant against infiltration, subversive activities, and separatist activities of international and domestic hostile forces".

In the Great Hall of the People in Peking, set against a large golden hammer and sickle, Mr Jiang ruled out any shift from Communist ideology. "The system must not be shaken, weakened or discarded at any time," he said. "The Western mode of political systems

must never be copied." His words, on a day when the country was congratulating itself on the achievements of "socialism with Chinese characteristics", offered no suggestion that the leadership believe economic reforms may lead to a phralistic system. On "hostile" forces "with a clearcut stand and resolutely nip them in the bud".

To that end, China on Thursday put on trial two leading dissidents, 32-year-old Wang Youcai and Qin Yongmin, 49. Both court hearings lasted just a few hours, and yesterday there was still no verdict or sentence.

Human rights activists exheavy jail terms as punishin Peking

ment for their attempt to register an opposition group, the China Democracy Party. Both defended themselves and pleaded not guilty to charges of inciting the subversion of state power". Legal representation proved impossible after the police detained one lawyer who wanted to act for Mr Wang and gave Mr Qin only three days'

notice of his court appearance. Yesterday, Mr Jiang made it clear that the Communist Party would accept no opposition, and that any political reform must be "orderly and step by step" - and on the party's terms.

The 75-minute speech, before an audience of 6,000 top officials. was long on classic Chinese political rhetoric and short on any vision for the next stage of reform. The ruling Communist the contrary, Mr Jiang said the Party's policy of "seizing or authorities must oppose the portunity, deepening reformation expanding, opening up, promoting development and maintaining stability is absolutely correct." Mr Jiang said.

Twenty years ago the late Deng Xiaoping set China on the path of economic reform after decades of disastrous central planning and a series of tragic political campaigns. The "reform and opening up" policies pect the two men to receive of Mr Deng transformed most people's lives.

IN BRIEF

Volcano threatens ice cap

A VOLCANO has erupted under Europe's biggest glacier, spewing smoke and ash miles into the sky and threatening to melt large parts of the ice cap. Scientists said the eruption in Vatnajokull, on Iceland's south-east coast, would not endanger populated areas.

North Korean agent killed

SOUTH KOREA demanded an apology after reporting its warships and fighters had chased and sunk an intruding North Korean vessel, killing at least one North Korean agent in a firefight off the southern coast. The body of the armed North Korean agent was found close to where the vessel, which resembles a dark speedboat, was sunk before dawn in South Korean waters.

Poles to open Communist files

POLISH LEGISLATORS voted to override President Aleksander Kwasniewski's veto of a Bill that would allow victims of Communist-era repression to see their secret police files. Afterwards, Mr Kwasniewski's lawyer said the President would now agree to sign the

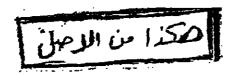
Flu bug disrupts Pope's schedule

THE POPE has come down with the flu at the start of the busy Christmas season and cancelled his audiences with the Catholic patriarch of Iraq and a representative of the Arab League. The Pope is scheduled to celebrate midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

DAVID USBORNE If Kofi Annan asked me to scrub floors

for him, I'd do it

IN THE SATURDAY REVIEW PAGE 5



Voices of angels, lives of slaves

A WEEK IN THE LIFE

VIENNA BOYS CHOIR

1498, 24 child singers from the Vienna Boys Choir climb the spiral stairs of the tiny Imperial Chapel of Vienna's Hofburg Palace. former seat of the Habsburg rulers, and take their

places in the choir gallery.
Outside, it is -5C and the quadrangle in front of the 13th century church is like a skating rink. But the furwearing Viennese mass-goers and intrepid Japanese tourists delighted to have secured tickets to hear the angelic voices sis. Its image took a battering at close range are queuing.

Disappointingly the boys are concealed from view and the tourists have to crane their necks to catch a glimpse. The atmosphere is only slightly marred when a man enters the chapel afterwards, brandishing CD recordings of the choir.

ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD Reinhard Gabriel, in navy coat and sailor hat, gets ready to go home for Sunday lunch with his father, Helmut. Next year he sets off en a tour covering every major บันางpean city, but Mr Gabriel

says it's worth it. "Of course he misses us but even when he's in Vienna we only see him twice a week. And he has the right attitude. He will do it." The family has already made sacrifices for Reinhard by moving from Linz to Vienna.

THE 18TH-CENTURY Augarten Palace once a Habsburg res-

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152 ##es

ITS 9.15AM and, just as they idence, is now the boardinghave done every Sunday since school home of the choir. Behind its high walls the gardens and playing fields echo to childish shouts and the soft thud of snowballs hitting woolly coats. Inside the baroque palace, the school principal. Manfred Seipt, sits in his office, wondering where the choir will get

its next artistic director from. The truth is that 500 years after Emperor Maximilian I recruited 12 boys by decree into the royal musical household, this unique institution is in crithree weeks ago when Agnes Grossman, the choir's first female artistic director, said the boys were exhausted, overworked, ruthlessly exploited for commercial profit and being robbed of their childhood.

about the decline in recent

vears, hailed the choir's return

to its serious musical heritage

and original mission. Now all

Many parents are unset-

tled and have taken up Miss

Grossman's demands for a re-

duction in tours and concerts.

but now admit they are heart-

broken to see their 10-year-olds

disappear on tour for three-

and-a-half months of the year.

For years they remained silent and over, crying "Bravissimo!"

that is in doubt again.

The claim shocked Vienna, provoking debate about what the choir represents. Linked to such figures as Mozart, Haydn and Schubert (who was in the choir), it has become a symbol of the city's musical heritage. But with no state subsidy since the collapse of the empire in 1918, it has increasingly had to rely on commercial activities.

Miss Grossman, awarded a

silver cross by the state for ser-

vices to the arts, resigned after an internal feud about the length of foreign tours (typically THE AUGARTEN is in festive mood as Christmas approachtwo to three months) and the vulgarisation of the repertoire. es but there is a heavy sched-It should not have been like ule ahead of the boys in the Haydn choir, who are not on this, on the choir's 500th anniversary. A three-month US tour (the other three choirs



The Vienna Boys Choir is facing trying times following the shock resignation of its first female artistic director

of Austria's musical youth.

Lucio Golio, a tutor, is play-

ing part of Mozart's Corona-

tion Moss on a grand piano.

Five sopranos, in tracksuits

and slippers, study their scores. Lucio makes them re-

peat a difficult phrase over

when they get it right. Anoth-

er group will go to the Vienna

Opera House to take part in a

performance of Puccini's

Tosco tonight. Last night there

was a special concert in the

baroque salon of the Augarten.

It's not exactly as it was in the

days of Schubert. In the recre-

ation area, older boys are hud-

dled over Gameboys. A few

more are watching skiing on

umph. Music critics, worried terms to fit in the travel, but and the Spice Girls adorn the teddy bear in the sailor suit is these are gifted boys, the élite walls. "They are normal boys," says Mr Seipt. "We have even caught boys smoking."

But few normal boys get flown to Germany to take part in a Christmas special of the country's most popular television show. Lionel Ritchie is supposed to accompany them, only he is struck down with hoarseness, leaving 20 million viewers disappointed. Instead, the choir sings a jazzed-up

version of "Silent Night". Television shows, CDs and other marketing tools are overseen by the choir's public relations man, Daniel Landau. At the risk of introducing a note of kitsch, the directors have agreed to a new range of merchandise. Vienna Boys Choir

tipped to be the big seller. There will soon be an Internet site.

ON THURSDAY night the entire Haydn choir flies to the Netherlands for a big charity concert. It is one of the rare moments when there is no choir boy on Viennese soil. Back in Vienna, Mr Seipt

uses the following day to write the speech he will deliver on the night before Christmas Eve when the Bruckner, Mozart and Schubert choirs return from New York and all the boys gather with their parents in the Augarten baroque salon to exchange gifts and sing "Adeste Fidelis".

"So many highs and one tour to overseen by Miss are). Schoolwork has to be television. Over the beds in the T-shirts, pens and paper-very big low" is how he sums up Grossman was an artistic tri-compressed into eight-week dormitories, Pamela Anderson weights are being tested. The the past year. He will close the very big low" is how he sums up

door when the boys have gone and think about how to undo the "huge damage" inflicted by Miss Grossman's outburst.

He is keen to keep many of her revolutionary ideas. The stuffy atmosphere and strict rules have been relaxed, the boys go home more often, girls are admitted to the kindergarten and the parents have

more rights. But the record companies and commercial concert organisers have also tied them into long-term obligations. The joyous atmosphere at the New Year's Day concert in the Hofburg will be tinged for many with the knowledge that many homesick months of 1999 have yet to be spent trailing through the concert halls and hotels of the world.

KATHARINE BUTLER

Painful cut to euro's stork

By Stephen Castle in Brussels

HE LOOKS the picture of innocence today, but Euro-stork, the official logo of the single cur-

rency, is hiding a painful secret. It emerged yesterday that early drafts of the cartoon character were altered, after complaints from Commission officials that the stork was sporting spherical objects some felt resembled male genitalia.

The information directorate in Brussels quickly stepped in. removing them in time for the official unveiling of Euro-stork in front of the continent's media earlier this week.

The revelation, already the subject of much amusement in the media in Brussels, has puzzled observers, who argue that neither in life, nor in children's literature, do storks have such prominent physical attributes.



The stork, as adjusted

One Brussels official said that the early draft was not deliberately drawn with genitalia, but that the outline was "open to misinterpretation".

Euro-stork was designed by Wejp Olsen, a cartoonist from Denmark, one of the countries which is not even taking part in the first wave of the currency.

The bird features in a short film which is being made available to television stations throughout the EU. In the film he lands, money pouch in beak. bringing the euro with him.

Euro-stork is part of a publicity blitz that is costing around £35,000, but which has not been without other complications.

Commission officials have had to limit the release of balloons celebrating the euro's launch on New Year's Eve to 3,000, to comply with air traffic control regulations. They have also been embarrassed by green groups, who claim that the balloons may prove highly damaging to real bird life.

Big Brand Duty Free offers on board until 31 December 1998

between 18 December 1998 and 6 January 1999 for only £148 return for a car and five people. Free deals on board. With offers like these it's no Alternatively, take the Stena HSS from Holyhead to

Nobody offers a lower fare to Ireland than Stena Line. Dun Laoghaire from a competitive £149 return for a Travel by Superferry from Fishguard to Rosslare car and five people. It's also the perfect opportunity to take advantage of the incredible big brand, Duty wonder we leave the competition in our wake.

For full details call 0990 70 70 70 or see your travel agent.

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

AMP poised to win NPI auction

AMP the Australian insurance group is poised to win the bidding for NPI the mutual insurer which put itself up for sale three months ago. Barring unforseen last minute hitches a deal could be announced early next week. AMP is believed to have offered around £2.6bn pipping rivals CGU and Britannic who yesterday effectively conceded defeat. NPI's 500,000 policyholders could be in line for windfalls averaging £1000.

Logica on £60m spending spree



LOGICA. the computer services group, yesterday splashed out over £60m on two acquisitions, taking its spending over the past few months to more than £100m. Logica is buying Aethos Communications, a Bristol-based software group specialising in pay-as-you-go mobile phone systems, for £47m and DDV, a Dutch telecoms and new media consultancy, for £15.6m. Martin Read, Logica's

Logica's leading position in the telecommunications sector. The deals, combined with an upbeat trading statement, helped boost Logica shares 17p to an all-time high of 527p.

chief executive (pictured), said the acquisitions reinforced

Corporate lending starts to slow

LENDING to the private sector is beginning to slow as businesses cut back on borrowing, according to official figures released yesterday. Lending of M4 – a broad measure of money supply - was just £1.5bn in November, the weakest figure since December 1996. Overall, M4 grew by 0.2 per cent last month, taking the annual growth rate to 8.4 per cent, the lowest since August 1995.

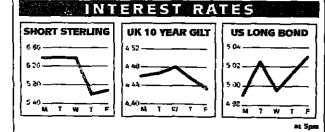
Separately, the British Bankers' Association (BBA) said total bank lending to the private sector rose by just £431m last month. According to the BBA, consumer borrowing is still strong, but there are signs of weakness in industry.

Liffe opens to outside investors

Liffe. the beleagered City derivatives exchange said vesterday it would change its rules to allow outside shareholders who are not members of the exchange to invest in the business. The move is part of chairman Brian Williamson's drive to turn the exchange from being a member-run organisation to one which is focused more clearly on profits. Liffe is cutting 600 jobs as it shifts from open outcry to electronic trading.

FTSE 100	DOW JONES	NIKKE
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Index	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 mk bigh	52 w/k loner Yi	<u> 이</u> 션(%)
FTSE 100	5741.90	56.70	1.00	6183.70	4599.70	3.27
FTSE 250	4711.20	15 30	0.33	5970.90	4247.60	4.90
FTSE 350	2703 60	23.80	0.89	2969.10	2210 40	3.51
FTSE All Share	2607.39	22 18	0.86	2886.52	2143 53	3.57
FTSE SmallCap	2016.00	3.90	0 19	2793.80	1834.40	4.17
FTSE Fledgling	1121.80	1 70	0.15	1517.10	1046.20	0.00
FTSE AIM	793 40	-1 80	-0.23	1146.90	761.30	0.00
FTSE EBLOC 100	935 07	-6 10	-0 65			
Dow Jones	8878.14	2 32	0 03	9380.20	7400.30	1.69
Niżkel	14194.29	67.30	0.48	17352,95	12787.90	1.03
Hang Seng	10226.23	142.92	1.42	11926 16	6544.79	3.05
Dav	4629.23	-94.58	-2.00	6217.83	3833.71	1.92



and of	MUNET MARKEL KALES					RREI KAIES BOND YIELDS				
index	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg		
UK	6.38	-1.34	5.74	-2.01	4.43	-1.86	4.30	-1.94		
US	5 23	-0.67	5.00	-1.03	4.58		5.03			
Japan	0.49	-0.25	0.54	-0 18	1.47	-0.44	2.16	-0.38		
Germany	3.32	-0.43	3.18	-0.86	3.83	-1,44	4.71	-1.75		

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POUND	·	DOLLAR

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Pollar	1.5809	+0.55c	1.6451	Sterling	0.5949	-0.19p	0.6078	
D-Mark	2.7996	+0.75pf	2.9743	D-Mark	1,6655	-0.10pf	1.7987	
Yen	194.37	-40 48	215 94	Yen	115.63	-¥-0.67	130.58	
€ Index	100.70	+0.30	104.10	S index	104.60	-0.20	107.90	

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١.		Close	Chg	Yr Ago		Index	Chg	Yr ago	Next fig
₽	inent Oil (S)	9.65	0.11	17.18	GDP 11	5.40	3.00	112.04	Dec

Gold (S) 290.45 -1.30 287.00 RPI 164.40 3.00 159.61 Dec 4 94 -0.03 6 01 Base Rates 6.25 7.25

MAMA CIOOMOSES	.com/uk	SOURCE: BLOOMBER			
ΤC	URIS	TRATES			
Australia (\$)	2.6009	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.23		
Austria (schillings)	18.96	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0389		
Belgium (francs)	55.71	New Zealand (\$)	3.0839		

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Australia (S)	2.6009	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.23
Austria (schillings)	18.96	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0389
Belgium (francs)	55.71	New Zealand (\$)	3.0839
Canada (S)	2.5159	Norway (krone)	12.55
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7970	Portugal (escudos)	275.36
Denmark (krone)	10.32	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6,1363
Finland (markka)	8.2645	Singapore (S)	2.6487
France (francs)	8.9598	Spain (pesetas)	229.30
Germany (marks)	2.7098	South Africa (rands)	9.6152
Greece (drachma)	454.01	Sweden (krone)	13.10
Hong Kong (S)	12.58	Switzerland (francs)	2.1923
Ireland (punts)	1.0850	Thailand (bahts)	56.25
Indian (rupees)	64 <u>.3</u> 3	Turkey (lirasi)	497979
Israel (shekels)	6.4618	USA (\$)	1.6364
Italy (lira)	2685		
Japan (yen)	189.03	Rates for indication purpo	ses only
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.1357		27.7
		_	

0.6076

Source, Thomas Cook

Malta (lira)

FSA chief quits after boardroom rift

operating officer of the Financial Services Authority, is in line for a £370,000 pay-off after a boardroom rift at the City watchdog which will result in his leaving in January.

Mr Farrant, the former chief executive of the Securities and Futures Authority, is the highest ranking casualty since the organisation began opera-

One of three managing directors sitting on the board

RICHARD FARRANT, the chief BY ANDREW GARFIELD Financial Editor

> below chairman Howard Davies, he is only 15 months into a three-year contract and was on a salary of £210,000 a

> His departure will aimost certainly be seen as as sign of the tensions with the FSA as Mr Davies seeks to weld the various organisations which it has replaced into a single regulator. Mr Farrant had a front-line

agement Regulatory Organi-

strumental in ensuring that senior management at Barings were held responsible for the failures that led to the bank's collapse. However, he was widely per-

ceived as having lost out to the more charismatic Philip Thorpe, the New Zealander who ran Imro, the Investment Mansation, when the top jobs at the FSA were shared out.

While Mr Thorpe now heads

role at the FSA and was inwill be responsible for disciplining those who fall foul of the FSA's tough code, Mr Farrant was given a less glamorous organisational role, which now will be eliminated by the board-

room reshuffle.. Mr Farrant said yesterday that following the FSA's move ate the SFA, to step aside. to its new premises at Canary initial phase of staff recruitment his job had been largely done. He said that he and the FSA industry.

the enforcement division which chairman had been discussing for some time the possibility of moving into a new role handling the next stage of integration. However, he had decided

particularly in view of his experience when the old Securities Association merged with the Futures Association to cre-

Mr Farrant, 53, said that he Wharf and the completion of the had no other job to take up but would probably seek to remain within the financial services



Richard Farrant: In line

pulls out

Tote

of the

Coral

race for

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

CINVEN AND Morgan Gren-

fell, the venture capitalists, last

night were left neck-to-neck in

the race for Coral after the Tote

withdrew from the bidding war for the betting shops chain being sold by Ladbroke.

In a brief statement, the

state-owned bookmaker said

that Ladbroke had rejected its

£375m offer for the 833 outlets.

have been far short of Cinven

and Morgan Grenfell's offers,

which are believed to be just

However, the Tote, which

was backed by venture capi-

talists Electra Fleming and

Candover, said that it did not want to pay over the odds for Coral, the UK's second largest

A spokesman for the state-

owned group, which is Britain's

fifth largest bookmaker said:

"We have looked at Coral upside

down and inside out but we

really think that [£375m] was

the most we could offer".

under £400m.

bookmaker.

The bid is understood to

Retailers fuel fresh gloom on high street

BY NIGEL COPE **Associate City Editor**

THERE WAS a fresh crop of bad news from some of Britain's largest retailer's yesterday just a day after official retail figures showed that sales in November had been stronger than

Littlewoods, the retail and football pools group, questioned the Government's statistics and said its own experience showed that there had been "a marked slowdown in sales over the last two months".

Barry Gibson, Littlewoods chief executive said: "The Government's [retail] statistics are notoriously unreliable. They often have to be revised a couple of months later. Our figures show that things began to change in July and the consumers have stayed cautious, in spite of retail statistics coming down. The slowdown is across the board, across all our retail businesses."

His comments echoed statements made by John Lewis, which said that its department store sales in the week to 12 December were "substantially short of estimates". The figures were 3 per cent down on the same week last year.

nishings, the textiles and furniture group reported flat profits for the six months to October and underlying sales down 4.7 per cent in the same period last year. While sales of smaller-ticket textile items such as bedding and curtains have proved resilient, furniture sales are down sharply.



Rod Templeman, Harveys Furnishings' managing director: 'My worry is the feel-bad factor'

Elsewhere, Harveys Fur-managing director. "Consumers may change their habits when the new annual interest rate changes come into effect in January . But my worry is the feel bad factor. People are worried about losing price. their jobs and that will stop

UNO, the rival furniture retailer, has also suffered. Its "Big ticket merchandise like shares plunged 20 per cent to furniture are deferrable pur- a new low of 32.5p yesterday,

Rod Templeman, Harveys at the beginning of the year. The ily] change their minds." shares fell on a well-informed market source that one of its largest institutional shareholders had sold its entire holding of around 650,000 shares at just 20p, half the then market

Littlewoods said it is now three years into a five-year recovery plan but still has no in-

The comments came as Littlewoods reported retail trading profits £5.5m lower at £33.7m for the six months to Octoher. The high street Littlewoods stores recorded a loss of £6.4m in the period after the sale of 22 of its stores to Marks

& Spencer. A restructuring programme tention to float the business. is expected to deliver savings "We have no plans, not for the of £50m over the next three

chases. People make do, "said compared to their 272.5p level shareholders [the Moores fam-fice functions and de-layers

The trial of stores under the Berkertex name will be dropped in January and ali stores will continue to trade under the Littlewoods banner. But the merchandise will be adjusted to offer women's clothing aimed at 35 to 65-year-olds.

The agency mail order business recorded flat profits but losses were reduced by 10 per cent at the Index store and the foreseeable future unless the years as it integrates head of Index Extra direct catalogue.

The bookmaker was und stood to have already increased its bid from around £345m in an attempt to match the offers tabled by the two venture cap-

The Tote's withdrawal, the last trade buyer in the running is set to trigger a final auction by the two venture capitalists groups. Sources close to Ladbroke, which was forced to sell Coral by the competition authorities, yesterday said he bidders were locked in the last

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round of negotiations. The venture capitalists' bids are believed to be fronted by racing figures. Cinven is thought to have the support of some of Coral's existing management, while Morgan Grenfell's has been rumoured to have enlisted Bob Green, a well-known bookmaker who used to head William Hill.

Industry experts believe that Cinven and Morgan Grenfell could raise their bids further. putting a final price tag around £400m on Coral The would be well in excess of the £363m Ladbroke paid the brewing giant Bass in May for the Coral chain. The deal was blocked by the Trade Secretary Peter Mandelson four months later on competition grounds. Mr Mandelson ruled that the Coral acquisition would have given Ladbroke, the UK's largest bookmaker, a dominant position in the £1bn a year betting market.

The minister ordered the hotel and gaming group to dispose of the shops within six months and urged to sell there to a single buyer to create powerful "third force" behind Ladbroke and William Hill.

Equities chief goes part-time

PHILIP AUGAR, the head of eq- to be quitting equities in a year uities at Schroders, the City merchant bank, is to go parttime in the New Year, writes Andrew Garfield.

Mr Augar, who joined Schroders four year ago from NatWest with a mandate to build up a UK and European equities capability for the firm, said he was taking time out to write a series of books about

He denied that the decision was linked to any plans by Schroders to cut back on the business. Mr Augar said: "We have de-

livered all we set out to deliver. A personal decision is not any sign of reduced commitment. I hope to stay at Schroders as long as I am

He added: "It would be odd

when we have more than doubled our market share, led a major privatisation in the telecoms sector, and moved into the top ten in the research rankings for UK and Europe." As chairman he will continue to run the equities business three days a week.

He raised eyebrows the length and breadth of the City when he left NatWest – which at the time was regarded as the one of the most powerful stockbroking firms in the City after six years for a merchant bank which had tried and failed to build up a UK equities business once before.

Mr Augur, 46, plans to write two books: one on the impact of the "Big Bang" on the City and one on wider aspects of

markets ignore Iraq raids

raids on Iraq failed to register in the financial markets yesterday, where attention was firmly focused on the impeachment vote in the US House of Representatives.

Crude oil prices continued to flounder as it became apparent the raids had not halted the flow of Iraqi oil exports.

Oil prices slid by 11 per cent in New York late on Thursday night, while on London's International Petroleum Exchange, February Brent crude dipped back below \$10 a barrel in afternoon trade. Nick Stamenkovic, chief

economist at Bank Austria Creditanstalt Futures, said: With the supply overhang and the weak global economy, the outlook for the oil price continues to be poor.

THE CONTINUED bombing By LEA PATERSON

Oil prices fall further as

Stock markets were unperturbed by the strikes on Iraq. and major European bourses closed higher, spurred on by gains in Far Eastern markets overnight and a strong opening on Wall Street.

In London, the FTSE-100 index broke through the 5,700 barrier, closing up 1 per cent at 5.741.9, as fund managers embarked on a year-end buying

One trader said: "It's quite common for fund managers to start buying heavily at this time of year to try and improve their showing by year-

Bank stocks were among the main gainers on the London Stock Exchange, while most oil stocks tracked crude prices lower. BP closed down 10p at 878.5p, while Shell ended the

day down 0.25p at 358p. For most financial markets, particularly the foreign exchange markets, the main focus of attention was the impeachment vote. Concern about the political

future of President Bill Clinton weighed heavily on the dollar. which had fallen another 1.3 yen to 115.08 yen by lunchtime in New York Impeachment concerns also

hit US government bonds for the second successive day, with the yield on 30-year Treasury bonds up 2 basis points at 5.03 per cent during afternoon Wall Street trade. Mr Stamenkovic said: "If

President Clinton does get impeached it will make the markets even more nervous."

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

Astra/Zeneca merge

FOOTSIE closed higher for the fourth day. After a volatile futures and options expiry the market settled down and blue chips moved steadily ahead. The index closed 56.7 points up at 5,741.9 but the supporting indices made much more restrained progress. BSkyB remained under pressure as more analysts cut profits estimates. The shares fell 15.5p to 465p. Smithkline Beecham, the drugs group, was also weak on talk it did not intend to barge into the

Derek Pain, page 21

NEW YORK

WALL STREET drifted in morning trade yesterday as the House of Representatives began the first presidential impeachment debate in 130 years. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up by 6.18 points at 8882.77 at lunchtime with advancing and declining shares about even on the New

York Stock Exchange. Drug shares fell after the Wall Street Journal reported that pharmaceutical companies are battling legislation in Congress that would cut the price Medicare recipients pay for medicines.

● TOKYO

TOKYO STOCKS closed firmer on Friday, shrugging off the air raids on Iraq and reports of a shoot-out between a North Korean submarine and South Korean forces. The Nikkei 225 closed up 67.3 points at

The overnight rally on Wall Street helped, as did news that the troubled builder Haseko has announced restructuring plans which will involve creditor banks writing off 394bn yen of its debts. Haseko shares inched up 3 yen to 62, although Mitsui Trust & Banking, one of the key lenders, saw its shares fall.

THE CAC-40 Index ended down 59.28 points, or 1.58 per cent, at 3691_89 and down slightly on the week. There was little enthusiasm from investors, given the backdrop of possible impeachment for President

Clinton, the Iraqi attacks and the forthcoming euro conversion. Share prices were also dragged down by weakness in oil stocks and in France Telecom.

Elf and Total contributed to about one fifth of the market's decline as Brent crude prices remained weak.

FRANKFURT

THE XETRA DAX gave up earlier gains to finish the day down 1.38 per cent at 4666.74, depressed by lacklustre trading in New York and falling bank shares. Dresdner Bank led the banks down, with its shares falling nearly 3 per cent on the day, ending their recent strong upward run.

The dominant news in the market was the announcement of a share swap between the two giant insurance groups Munich Re and Allianz. Munich Re's shares rose 2.5 per cent and Allianz was down 0.6 per cent on the day.

حكذا من الاحل

(E INDEPENDENT,

Mandelson fires his cruise missile

AS THE bombs fall on Baghdad, another battle of wills is being fought out closer to home. It may not be in quite the same league as Clinton v Saddam, but the Westminster skirmish between Peter Mandelson and Gordon Brown has the potential to escalate into all-out war.

This week the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry fired another salvo in the shape of his White Paper on competitiveness. It was an attempt to wrest back the high ground from the Chancellor. who is intent on making Mr Mandelson play second fiddle wherever the economy is concerned. He has, for instance, decided that the Treasury, not the Department of Trade and Industry, should lead the Government's drive to raise productivity levels in British

As a retaliatory strike. Mr Mandelson's White Paper partially hit the target. He has coined the idea of "the knowledge-driven



His little black book contains a list of telephone numbers and favours to call in. He will need it now

economy" and is determined that the DTI should be in the vanguard of the move to turn that concept into reality, with a spot of pump-priming here and a taskforce there. The DTI is launching a

fusillade of new schemes to beef up delson circles as Mr Brown's "FT-Britain's science base, get inven-trained gorilla". tions out of the laboratory and into commercial use and reform the regulatory climate so that it is procompetition and entrepreneur-

Of course the Chancellor saw to week's White Paper. Many of the positively glacial. initiatives were carefully trailed in Mr Brown's pre-Budget statement last month, to the anger and frustration of the Mandelson lobby.

The origins of the mutual antipathy are said to go back to the 1994 Labour leadership contest, when Mr Mandelson switched horses and backed Tony Blair, not Mr Brown.

Whatever the truth, the antagonism runs deep and it is fuelled on a regular basis by the Chancellor's press secretary, Charlie Whelan, and his economics adviser Ed Balls, who is known in Man-

Relations between the DTI and the Treasury are said to be "workmanlike" at official level. But the further up the respective departments you go, the frostier becomes the atmosphere, until you it that Mr Mandelson was not able reach the offices of Mr Mandelson to keep all his powder dry for this and Mr Brown, where the air is

> For an example of how vicious the hand-to-hand fighting can be, you need to go back no further than the Post Office review earlier this month. A senior Brown aide, generally assumed by the DTi to have been Mr Whelan, told the Daily Mail that Mr Mandelson's package of reforms was "garbage and rubbish". The source went on to accuse the Trade Secretary of "bottling out" under union pressure by not privatising the organ-

Not surprisingly, this version of events is alien to the DTI. In fact

Mr Mandelson met the Chancellor the day after he began his new job at the DTI and asked Mr Brown what his view was on the Post Office. He replied that the sale of any shares, even a minority holding, was out of the question be-

cause of its political sensitivity. Far from "bottling out", it is also known that Mr Mandelson had to fight Mr Brown every inch of the way to secure even the limited commercial freedoms the Post Office will now get. The Treasury had wanted to put "the most appalling hurdles" in the way of the Post Office's ability to borrow, and at one stage suggested that all investment decisions be authorised by a committee chaired by the Prime Minister.

Finally, Tony Blair had to be called in to "dig a tank trench to repel the Treasury" as one senior

figure at the DTI put it. The episode is instructive. Mr DTL Margaret Beckett, enjoyed no such patronage. A remnant of old Labour, she too often found herself on the wrong side of the argument in Cabinet.

The result was that when Mr Brown's tanks began advancing, she had no way of reinforcing her defences with the help of the Prime Minister.

Mr Mandelson comes from a different tradition. His critics may accuse him of lacking any fixed political abode, but he is one of the architects of New Labour and has the ear of Downing Street. His little black book contains a list of telephone numbers and favours to

He will need it. For all his powers of persuasion, Mr Mandelson knows that the levers of power lie elsewhere. The DTI's budget is modest, even though it has wrung an extra £1.4bn out of the Treasury for science, while privatisation

it is rather the other way around. Mandelson's predecessor at the has robbed it of the power it once had as a sponsoring department for vast industries.

Officials still recall with a chill how Nicholas Ridley walked through its glass-fronted doors a decade ago and asked what the department was for.

If Mr Mandelson's vision of a knowledge-driven economy is to be realised in full, it will require important changes in the education system, in Britain's planning policy and, ultimately in taxation. But education is the province of David Blunkett and planning rests with John Prescott, while tax, of course, lies with the Treasury. One reason. perhaps, why it rated just one short paragraph in a 66-page White

The DTI is Mr Mandelson's first "proper" job in Cabinet. But perhaps he has his eyes set ultimately on the Chancellor's office. In the meantime expect plenty more

Department of the Department o forecast cuts

RETAILERS, already battered and bruised, suffered more punishment as the highly rated analyst Nick Bubb of the SG Securities investment house cut his profit estimates for the three leading department store chains.

House of Fraser was the main casualty of the SG assault, falling 1.5p to a new 51p low with the Bubb forecast reduced from £25.4m to £20m. Last year Fraser, once part of the Fayeds' Harrods empire, produced £29m.

market four years ago, when shares were sold at 180p, the stores chain has lurched from one crisis to another with new management yet to make much impression.

war's dividend to be cut to 4.2p cap index had to settle for a a share from 5.5p, remains cautious about the shares

He has reduced his estimates for Allders from £19m to £17.5m; Debenhams has been lowered from £143m to

Most retail shares have been under intense pressure

MARTIN EDWARDS, chief are utive of Manchester United, appears to have taken a fancy to a little publishing group hoping to float on the Ofex share market. He is said to have pumped £50,000 into Citron Press. a business focusing on new fiction and using a print-on-demand technology which reduces the risks associated with publishing new titles. Citron is offering 1.3 million shares at 50p each, raising £650,000.

s the stock market continues to take the view that, despite relatively impressive high street sales figures for last month, the festive season has so far been a huge let-down for the nation's army of shopkeepers.

On Wednesday Henderson Crosthwaite cut its Marks & Spencer profit forecast from c850m to £800m and also reduced estimates for other leading retailers.

Uno, the furniture retailer, is the latest to come under stock market pressure with, it sas said, a major institutionshareholder dumping its holding. The shares fell 8.5p to 32.5p; last year they reached

Footsie had another upbeat session, scoring its fourth gain on the trot. It closed 56.7 points higher at 5,741.9, the highest this month. Once again turnover was strong for a period when trading is usually

This week's display has strengthened hopes that Footsie could be limbering up for its

Name

Harveys Foo

DC Coak Holdings (1)

Crest Packaging (1)

(F) - Final (I) - Interim

MARKET REPORT



PAIN

Since it arrived on the stock traditional Christmas romp. It has risen 200 points this week, despite the renewed Iraq hostilities and the expected impeachment of President Clinton.

Supporting shares strug-Mr Bubb, who expects the gled to join in the fun. The mid modest 15.3 gain to 4,711.2 and

> The futures and options expiry created some turbulence as a handful of institutions struggled for positions. A cross of 61 million shares in Telewest Communications appeared to stem from the excited trading.

> BSkyB, the satellite television station, remained under pressure as more profit downgradings materialised. Merrill Lynch moved to £149m for this year and £181m for next.

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The shares fell 15.5p to 465p; it appeared that Goldman Sachs finished placing the remainder of the 17 million shares it acquired from BSB Holdings, a company controlled by Granada, Pearson

and the French group Pathe. Reuters was little changed at 612.5p as Schroders put a 745p price target on the shares and Pearson firmed a further 19p to 1,181p.

Emap jumped 60p to 1,100p. The publisher has held City meetings to present its case for paying a seemingly rich £750m for a US group producing such titles as Teen, Hot Rod and Guns & Ammo. It has clearly won supporters; when the deal was announced the shares fell 70p to 970p.

On the transport pitch, Go-

COMPANY RESULTS

2.8p (3.5p) -16.76p (-2.01p)

4.33p (5.55p) 15.4p (13.4p)

-0.150m (-0.124m)

1.00m (1.85m)

1.58m (1.82m) -2.10m (0.013m)

1.38m (1.28m) -5 54m (1.16m)

Ahead firmed 3.5p to 781p following an analysts' visit.

Jarvis, the construction and transport maintenance group, advanced 50.5p to 592p on Warburg Dillon Read support; the investment house said the shares were worth 780p.

Warburg also described Hays, the business support company, as a long-term buy but such faint praise left the shares off 22p at 464.5p.

The engineer Siebe, at one time up 12p, ended with a 9p plus at 224.5p. Trading was brisk. Stories persist of developments in its agreed bid for BTR, up 1.5p at 118.75p. Suggestions range from the terms being reduced to another bidder barging in, striking at either Siebe or BTR.

Unlikely talk that the Tarmac-Aggregate Industries merger, called off this week, could be on again gave Aggr gate a push, up 2.5p to 69.75p.

Countryside Properties. which recently delivered encouraging figures, rose 3.5p to 88.5p. The group met Scottish institutions this week. Profit forecasts bave been lifted;

FILTRONIC, making

telecom components and enjoying close relations with the Nokia group, dialled a 23.5p gain to 623.5p. The group, which has just arranged a \$170m US debt placing, spent much of the day talking to analysts. The shares, like so many in the telecom industry, have enjoyed a spectacular run. They are now riding at their peak; when the came to market in 1994 they were around 139p.

Charterhouse Tilney and Merrill Lynch are looking for £17m this year against £14.6m.

Bearing Power, a distributor of power transmission components, was the day's top performer, up 67 per cent to 15p as the management mounted a £6.3m bid. The Friday profit warning was delivered by Rackwood Mining, down 3.25p to 5.5p.

Booker, the beleaguered cash and carry chain, held at 64p as stories circulated that the sale of its wholesale foods operation was imminent. The new chief executive Stuart Rose, ex-Argos, has indicated the division is to be sold.

The group has had a torrid time with two potential bidders, retailers Budgens and Somerfield walking away. The shares slumped from around 120p last month when the latest in a string of profit warnings appeared. They were 479p four years ago.

SEAQ VOLUME: 972.1 million SEAQ TRADES: 72,175 GILTS INDEX: n/a

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A Microsoft deal would be a major success for John Ritblat, British Land's chairman

British Land to buy Microsoft HO

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

BRITISH LAND, the acquisitive property group, is poised to buy Microsoft's UK headquarters in Reading in a high-profile deal worth around £100m.

The US software giant is believed to be close to a sale-andleaseback deal on its 33-acre "Microsoft Campus" with a joint venture between British Land, the UK's second largest property company, and the American pension fund Teachers.

Under the agreement, Bill Gates' company would sell the site on Thames Valley Park to the British Land/Teachers totalling over 20,000 square consortium and would pay a metres. yearly rent to the property company and its partner

The arrangement will enable Microsoft to remain on its flagship site, while reducing buildings. the property costs of its head-

According to today's Estates Gazette, a trade magazine, the US computer company had been eyeing a sale-and-leaseback deal since September as part of a review through an aggressive acqui-

British Land and Teachers declined to comment.

The search for a real estate partner is in line with Microsoft's group-wide policy of owning very few property assets to keep fixed costs to a minimum.

Sources close to the comoany said that the US giant has sale and leaseback arrangements on the majority of its headquarters around the

The Thames Valley Park is the key hub for the Microsoft's UK operations. It houses around 1,000 sales and marketing staff in three buildings

The company, which moved to the site last year, has planning permission for a further 25,000 square metres of new

A deal with Bill Gates would be a major success for the British Land chairman, John Ritblat, one of the most famous property developers in Britain. He built up a large property portfolio in the City of London of its UK properties. Microsoft, sition programme.

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IN BRIEF

Danka negotiates deal with Kodak

Systems jumped 11p to 66p yesterday as the troubled photocopier distributor negotiated a deal with Eastman Kodak that will cut Danka's payment obligations to the US giant by more than \$150m.

Under the new deal, Kodak will still supply parts and supplies to Danka, but has scrapped the obligation that Danka buy a certain amount every year. The two companies are still reviewing their overall working relationship.

Energis boost ENERGIS, the telecoms

group, yesterday agreed a new bank facility, extending its funding to £500m from £150m, and said it was ready to issue bonds in the future. The move gives Energis the capacity to make investments and acquisitions that it had before it bought Planet Online, the Internet

service provider in the

arranged by Dresdner

summer. The facility was

Kleinwort Benson and syndicated to 19 banks. Exchanges meet THE HEADS of eight European stock exchanges met in London yesterday for

> aimed at creating a pan-European stock exchange, The meeting was part of a continuing consultation between the exchanges, a London Stock Exchange spokeswoman said. However, there was no comment on the outcome of the meeting.

a second round of talks

Glaxo approval GLAXO WELLCOME, the pharmaceutical giant, yesterday won US approval

for its anti-Aids drug Ziagen. The company said that it planned to launch the drug, also known as Abacavir, in January. Analysts have predicted that Ziagen, part of Glaxo's strong anti-Aids drug portfolio, could have sales of

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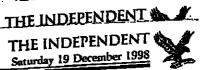
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مكذا من الاجل

Those boring tennis players didn't get a look in

THEY GOT 500,000 telephone votes in the space of 10 minutes for last weekend's BBC Sports Personality of the Year. Think of it. Half a million people. Or, more accurately. 499,981 people, as my wife voted 20 times for Michael Owen.

That figure assumes, of course, that no one else in the country decided to sway the voting - or, as my wife would have it, decided to make sure that justice was done and those bloody boring tennis players didn't get a look in.

Where were you when you heard Greg Rusedski was Sports Personality of the Year? Can't remember? Neither can I.

It wasn't possible to find out what proportion of the vote went to Liverpool and England's 18-year-old hotshot. Figures of that kind simply



ROWBOTTOM

spokeswoman told me, because they might show that the winner had won by a huge margin, and the runnersup - in this case. Denise Lewis and Iwan Thomas from the world of athletics - might be upset about disweren't publicised, a BBC publicity covering their portion of the votes.

and/or Thomas would probably be able to master their tears in such

Be that as it may, I suspect young Mr Owen won by a very large margin - and rightly so.

The spokeswoman said there had been a complaint about the fact that the final topic to be reviewed in the programme before the telephone voting started - care of the same company that co-ordinates the Eurovision Song Contest - was the World Cup. Biased towards Owen, right? When she said a complaint, that was what she meant. The BBC has received one letter expressing this opinion. From a Mrs Henman. Not really.

What probably clinched the vote

Now shoot me down in flames if between the jaunty young man Bergkamp's clinically precise effort you don't agree, but I think Lewis who made a time-out signal to indicate he had hit the stanchion after converting his post-match penalty in the World Cup match against Argentina, and the defeated boy who stood with dark eyes brimming after it was all over.

His was not a full-scale, shirt-wiping Gazza blub; but there were enough echoes of that emotive scene from the 1990 World Cup to access a similar well of public sym-This week I found myself de-

fending the award decision when a friend insisted Owen did not deserve it because it was all down to ons his efforts in just one game.

Just one game? Essentially, it was even less than that - just one goal. But what a goal, and at what for Owen was the piquant contrast a moment. Along with Dennis

for the Netherlands in the quarterfinal, Owen's inspired incursion into Argentinian territory produced what many will remember as the goal of the World Cup.

You could argue that in terms of personality, Owen had less going for him than either of the athletes in his wake. Lewis, especially since her pre-Olympic photo-shoot in scarcely more than red, white and blue body paint, has become an increasingly high-profile figure with a natural warmth and vivacity. Beyond her competitive career, the world of television presenting beck-

Thomas, with his Just William, through-a-hedge-backwards hairstyle, is a patently nice, affable bloke. His scattiness is also endearing, as BBC viewers discovered 400m title in Budanest.

During the post-race interview. with a little prompting from fellow Welsh athlete Jamie Baulch, he gave those watching at home a glimpse of the hastily cut-down shorts he had had to wear under his running gear because he had run

out of underpants. Would Michael Owen ever appear in nothing except red and white bodypaint. I think not. Would Michael Owen ever run out of underpants? I think not.

Certainly not while the proud mum who cried during his award ceremony still holds sway over his

As for personality - the only clear public sense of that derives from the way he is on the pitch. Off the field his exuberance is kept

game he loves to play regularly with his dad, Owen always hits straight down the centre of the fair-

His role model in this appears to be his captain in the England team, Alan Shearer, who also happens to share his kit manufacturer. Owen's short speech of acceptance last Sunday night was an object lesson. In it, he paid tribute to the team support he received for both club and country and concluded with the tabloidesque reflection that the award was a nice early gift for his birthday the following day.

There was no need for anything fancy - it was just a case of having to tap the ball over the line. No wonder Glenn Hoddle, joining in the applause afterwards, could be seen mouthing the words "Well Done".

West put faith in magic of Monkley

Premiership strugglers aiming to build on first win with help from formidable New Zealand flanker. By Chris Hewett

currently unable to tell their Duane in the world. Monkleys from their Shane Mc-Donalds. Happily, their ignorance is makes the big tackles, gets his unlikely to survive much beyond the hands on the ball and turns the other first couple of minutes of tomorrow's guy over in a flash. The way rugby

intriguing rumble with Northampton. their raids on New Zealand rugby's more often than not, four or five big bloodstock market and, this time, turnovers are enough to get you the they have bought themselves some result. That's where Duane comes

the paupers are up out of the gut- in that he plays with such enormous ter and heading for the bright lights. zest and energy. I had to outbid Har-

Monkiey, routinely described as the finest Kiwi open-side flanker never to don an All Black jersey, and McDonald, zest and energy. I outbid last season play-Harlequins to get him' the former Taranaki hooker were set to work for

their new employers at Bedford last Saturday and ers - the crack South African Currie recognitive laid the foundations for a Cup side, but British aficionados will know him better as one buzz-bombit was not the Springboks they beat down at Goldington Road but when you have just spent four depressing months going 11-zip and shipping 467 points in the process, any win is a big win.

According to Mike Brewer, whose own All Black credentials could hardly be more impeccable, West are now equipped with a pack capable of going gumshield-to-gumshield with the best in the country.

"I'm confident we finally have the players to do the right things at the right moments in the right situations," said the player-coach this I contacted John and asked him if I soak up during it." week. "In a very short space of time, he had any ideas. He knew Duane

IT IS REASONABLE to suggest that Shane has rectified some of our the vast majority of West Hartlepool more obvious problems at line-out rugby union supporters - always as- and scrum. And Duane? Well, he's suming the words "vast" and "ma- just Duane. There aren't many like "ty" can be properly used in him. He's 32 now but I would unrelation to the Premiership's small- hesitatingly class him amongst the

"He closes down the opposition, is played these days, it's the good de-West have completed another of fensive sides that win the games; e thoroughbreds. Suddenly, in; he's a mirror image of Neil Back

> lequins to get him here and it meant scraping Duane is a mirror image the bottom of the of Neil Back in that he barrel, but Jeez, plays with such enormous Monkley spent

ing for Western Province - now renamed the Western Storm-

ing third of the wonderful Waikato back row that took the 1993 Lions to the cleaners in Hamilton. John Mitchell, the Sale coach who also acts as Clive Woodward's secondin-command at England level, played No 8 to Monkley's No 7 that day and it was he who suggested chequebook.

"Áctually, I originally had my sights on Eric Miller, who was very disaffected at Leicester," Brewer admitted. "But Eric made it clear that he wanted to go home to Ireland, so



players such as (below, clockwise from top left) Shane McDonald, Kenneth Fourie, Mike Mullins and Duane Monkley

had been a big success in Cape Town and that the Western Stormers were keen on playing him in next season's Super 12, but the South African Rugby Football Union see that competition as a Springbok testing ground, so the door was open. "You might wonder why John

didn't sign Duane himself, but he has an England Test flanker in Pat Sanderson and he probably reckoned it would be a backward step, given his own role in the Twickenham set-up. We were in a different situation; we needed some proven quality, some experience. Duane has a good two seasons left before his body starts asking him the diffithat Brewer might reach for the cult questions. My own body has already started and I'm getting the message loud and clear, but I think it's important that I carry on a while longer. I still get the adrenalin rush before a game and it just about makes up for the punishment

In addition to all that New

Dunbar Premiership's answer to

rock and roll - big crowds, flash mar-

Bracken – but it is some time since

they made sweet music together.

True, England's knock-out champi-

ons have staged a partial recovery

from the trauma of heavy defeats at

Harlequins and Newcastle by win-

ning three of their last four games,

but somehow their sense of rhythm

continues to elude them.

London Irish

back rows, Brewer can also field a very useful second-row combination of Philippe Farner, the former Racing Club de Paris lock, and Mark Giacheri, the Sydney-born veteran of Italy's 1995 World Cup campaign. "Because of injuries, they hadn't played together until we got to Bedford," said Brewer. "They're good players and they make a big difference to a club who have only 17 or 18 blokes who can really stack up

"I'm not saying we've turned the corner, just because we won last weekend. But we've certainly stretched out our necks, peered round the wall and seen what the road ahead looks like. I certainly think we can avoid relegation, especially if the politicians stay true to their word and stick to the terms of support. As far as I'm concerned, it's the worst day of his Lions career.

against the leading Premiership

Zealand know-how in the front and one down automatically and another in a play-off. We'll fight until we're blue in the face to keep that in place."

And Northampton, whose six wins from their last seven league outings have given them the sheen of title contenders? "Well, it's a major test for us, isn't it? They've tightened up their front five by recruiting Freddie Mendez at hooker and shifting Tim Rodber into the second row, and as a consequence they're playing a very physical game. But then, we've tightened up a bit ourselves. I hope they really come at us up front because we have a lot to offer back to them."

Ian McGeechan wili know precisely how much; when Monkiey produced his virtuoso display of Brit-bashing back home in Hamilton five and a half years ago, the Northampton coach was sitting in the Mayfair Agreement, which this the front row of the Rugby Park club signed up to and continues to stand. Suffice to say he regards it as

Saracens out to rock Bath at Rec



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

At no stage did Wiseman accept that what he had done was wrong. He never said sorry and maintained that he had behaved

correctly throughout. Senior FA official on the meeting at which Graham Kelly resigned as chief executive and Keith Wiseman refused to as chairman.

When the full council met, the front row of the room was known as death row. Senior FA official, following the Kelly's resignation, on the aged FA Council.

The very fabric of the great game is being damaged. mohan Dalmiya, International Cricket Council president, on the match-fixing scandal.

It is important to do well at sport but remember it is only a sport that we are talking about. It is not as if someone has declared war on us.

Tony Banks, Sports Minister, on England's defeat in the third Test.

It's always been the same here: if you lose they give you funny looks all the time... Graham Gooch, England manager, after the third Test.

The reason fans abuse me is because they are jealous of me. David Beckham, of Manchester United and England.

You know what I do when I'm right. I put people in body bags. Mike Tyson.

SARACENS MAY still be the Allied BY CHRIS HEWETT

we performed a long way short of the keting, dancing girls and Kyran level we regularly achieved last season," said the ambitious South African yesterday as he prepared for this afternoon's highly significant rumble with Bath at the Recreation Ground. "Bath might not be the force they were, temporarily at least, but if you win there you make an important statement of intent. Northampton did that last weekend

That reality has not been lost on François Pienaar, whose decision to add the first-team captaincy to his bulging portfolio of duties at Vicarage Road caused a serious stir before last weekend's encounter with dislocations revealed itself again last Sunday. Troy Coker, equally

and we must do something similar." To that end, Pienaar has installed himself on the open-side flank in the absence of Richard Hill, whose masochistic penchant for thumb

blind side, while Bracken resumes of their own candidacy if they grind at scrum-half after a back problem that cost him his England place.

For all that, much of the interest will be focussed on a complete unknown: David Flatman, an 18-yearold Sarries loose-head who caused London Irish all sorts of grief six days ago. "He's a star," enthused Mark Evans, the Londoners' director of rugby. "Just watch him go."

Victory over a Bath line-up shorn of Phil de Glanville, Jon Preston, ic capitulation at Sale. Mark Regan and Richard Webster (all injured) as well as Ieuan Evans, Steve Hatley and Ben Sturnham (all dropped) would go at least some of the way towards re-establishing the visitors' title credentials. Even so, "Even though we won that match, hard but nowhere near as subtle as Leicester, the hot favourites, will un-

his Springbok partner, returns to the derline the overwhelming strength out a result at Gloucester, for whom the former Wales captain Kingsley Jones makes a first Premiership start in the back row.

It will be no cakewalk, not only because three automatic backline choices - Joel Stransky, Will Greenwood and Nnamdi Ezulike - are tery. Their cause will hardly be crocked, but because Richard Hill. the Gloucester coach, reacted so violently to last weekend's shambol-

"We played without pride or commitment and I've made it clear that everyone will be playing for their places when they go in against Leicester," Hill firmed. "We had a big heart-to-heart on Monday to assess what went wrong, but it's the last

chance for these guys as far as I'm concerned. It's up to them to prove to themselves, to me and to the paying public that they deserve to be first choice." Pressure on, then.

Just as it will be at London Scottish, where Richmond need to stand up and be counted after four frustrating months of deceptive flathelped by the absence of Ben Clarke, who fractured a cheekbone during last weekend's full-on scrap with Cardiff. With Scott Quinnell back home with Llanelli, the Londoners' back row has a brittle look to it. "Let's just say Ben's injury is a great disappointment to us," said John Kingston, their coach, as he weighed up his options vesterday.

Problems, problems.

Express a better option

TO SEE Unsinkable Boxer By RICHARD EDMONDSON soaring over Uttoxeter's shrubbery yesterday was to wonder what all the fuss is when people talk about switching from hurdles to fences. The unfortunates in pursuit of the Unsinkable had no chance.

Yet it is not always thus. The Long Walk Hurdle at Ascot today will exemplify the vagaries of the turf as three animals sent over the big stuff last time are returned to a more salubrious venture over timber.

It is hardly shocking that Ocean Hawk did not make the transition as fences must have seemed as daunting as castle walls to the little horse. He actually won over the larger obstacles at Worcester last time. but connections have done the decent thing and returned National Hunt's My Little Pony to his proper sphere.

There were doubts whether Cyborgo would be good for anything but filling doggies' tummies after his last start, in the Cheltenham Gold Cup. That was the day he swerved and took See More Business out of calculations after appearing to do himself a very nasty mischief.

The gelding had fractured his back and many thought the end had come. Cyborgo is back

33-1

Richard

tipping

(33-1)

ALZOOMO

Edmondson

Racing Post

naps table by

Last Saturday,

went top of the

today, however, and may return to fencing in the King George VI Chase on Boxing Day if he acquits himself thoroughly. It was in this race 12 months

ago that Paddy's Return threatened to become the colossus among stamina hors-es. He thrashed Pridwell by 19 lengths and immediately became everyone's fancy for the Stayers' Hurdle at the Festival. That was his last win.

Paddy's Return had three further ventures last season, and two more, over fences, this

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Torduff Express (Ascot 2.50) NB: Princeful (Ascot 2.15)

campaign. All have been characterised by failure. The bottom of the pit was reached at Wetherby last month when the six-year-old threw himself to the ground. Ferdy Murphy, his trainer, considered that was enough. He hopes the return to a happy hunting ground may invigorate his horse.

Princeful, too, had been expected to test his physique

OST DATA

RACING POST

against fences early this season, but instead is cherrypicking some nice hurdles races

before he makes the transition. Jenny Pitman's horse faces two Stayers' Hurdle runners-up this afternoon: Splendid Thyne, whom he beat at Prestbury Park last March, and Anzum, who has been absent with a leg problem since finishing behind

CORAL =

Karshi in the 1997 running. Princeful (next best 2.15) can do himself a favour and suggest to his trainer that he remains over hurdles a good deal longer.

Nicky Richards sends out his first big-race representative since being granted a permanent licence on Wednesday when Unguided Missile contests the Betterware Cup.

best of fortunes since succeeding his father, Gordon, at Greystoke, but there are possibilities here for Unguided Missile as he has a 9lb turnround with Tamarindo for the 10 lengths he was beaten by

Richards jnr has not had the

The Cheltenham Gold Cup hope Unsinkable Boxer makes the only mistake of his winning chase debut at Uttoxeter yesterday at the second-last fence

Martin Pipe's horse at Cheltenham eight days ago. It should be tight between

2.50), who has a chance on a line through Macgeorge, who split the big two at Cheltenham.

BBC will show us should advertise the Supreme Novices' prospects of Hoh Invader (1.40), while, off camera, there is an interesting Frogmore Chase fea-

progressive Get Real, on course for the Victor Chandler Chase. The other race which the Channel 4 cover Uttoxeter

and of greatest significance here is the appearance of Polar Prospect (3.40) in the last race. The five-year-old was also declared at Ascot, where he could

the two and a value option is turing the multiple course win-TORDUFF EXPRESS (nap ner Storm Alert, last year's vic-next month's Ladbroke Hurdle. tor in this race, Celibate, and the He turns out instead for a cheaper prize without the threat of a penalty and the tip should be taken.

Warwick is also not without its charms as David Nicholson will be on hand dressed as Santa Claus. Rudolph may get

Boxer easily outpoints rivals "He couldn't have done it any

yesterday and only an error at the second last fence prevented the nine-year-old gaining

However, he proved little and the bookmakers remain largely unmoved. Coral and Ladbrokes leave Unsinkable

UNSINKABLE BOXER smooth-ly accomplished his first test as changed at 12-1, while William a steeplechaser at Uttoxeter Hill offer the same price after trimming him two points.

Sent off a 1-3 chance yester-

day, Unsinkable Boxer was always travelling sweetly for Tony McCoy who was able to ease down on the run-in allowing Carry On Brendan to close to within a flattering six lengths.

David Pipe, representing his father, the trainer Martin, said: "We'll wait for the horse to tell us whether he's up to running in the Gold Cup. I'm sure he'll

better than that," McCoy said.

"He's a big horse and he han-

dled things well."

be entered in it as well as in the Royal & SunAlliance Chase." **FORM VERDICT** With an 8b put and the benefit of his first race for well over two years, UNREAL CITY may be able to reverse a recent course defeat by Daradno, though this shorter trip is a concern Nomore Mr Niceguy is the pick of the weights, but lacks experience of Equitrack, which may well be a disadvantage in the early

1.50 MULLED WINE HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 5f

	William	Light or nurrou (a) (b) . (17 4 2 - 2 4 - 6 codes (1) to	1
2		TEAR WHITE (75) (D) 7 kSs 49 3	ı
3		AJNAD (8) R k/arvin 49 12 S Righton (7) 7	ı
4	551061	TONE TUN (32) (CD) Mass J Craze 3 9 TIT Williams 1	ł
5	006054	AJIG DANCER (17) (D) M Cranco S 9 9 Candy Morris 5	ŀ
6	0/2606	HALF TONE (8) (CD) 7 Power 69 6 Dane O'Nell 9 8	ļ
7	000303	MISS BANANAS (14) (CD) C Kelett 3 9 5N Carfisio 6	Į
6	204435	FRIENDLY BRAVE (5) (CD) Mass G Kelengy & 9 4 . W Rysin 3 B	ļ
		RISE 'N SHENE (25) (CD) C Cyzer 4 5 23 G Faulkner (3) 4	1
10	0000051	MUKARRAB (12) (C) (D) D Cracaran 4 & 13	ı

BETTING: 7-2 Pride Of Briston, 5-1 Ajnaxi, 11-2 Torn Turn, 6-1 Mukamata, 8-1 Sear White, Friendly Brave, 10-1 Alio Dancer, Miss Banaces, 14-1 others FORM VERDICT

This is fively to be run at a very last pace, with several real speed stars in opposition. The unexposed TOM TUN is better draw then the other last time out winners Pride Of Britation and Markstrat and that advantage can swing things his way, though with all three progressing this is a race in which it is hard to be confident.

2.25 MINCE PIE HANDICAP (F) (DIV I
1 00544 JUBILEE SCHOLAR (6) (CD BP) G L Moore 5 9 12 JF Norton 1
2 D35225 PROSPECTOR'S COVE (8) (D) J Pearce 5.9 10R Price
3 100000 FOREST ROBEN (8) Mrs L Stuttes 598 . Kristin Stubbs (7)
4 073004 CRITICAL AIR (24) A McNoe 3 9 7
5 -56005 ZYGO (USA) (63) R Philips 6 9 6 Mt Tebbut
6 000060 SEA FIG (14) 5 Knight 3 9 6
7 452500 STAR TURN (119) R Flower 493
8 000000 GILDERSLEVE (12) N Berry 3 9 1
9 0456-0 NOBLE HERO (341) K Morgan 4 9 D R Winston (3)
10 265023 TARPADALE (24) C Gooth 4 8 12 S Whitworth 1
11 0-0005 SURPRESA CARA (10) B Johnson 3 8 10
12 600005 MISTER MUNNELLY (25) J Jenters 5 8 9 T Williams
13 06006 HALF TEDE (24) P Milchell 4 8 8
14 260400 AMBIDEXTROUS (JS) (D) E Alston 6 8 8 K Sked (S) 1
= 14 declared -
DETTING, 2 d Orbital Ale d at Scholar Cabalan Co.

FTING: 3-1 Critical Alt, 4-1 Jubilee Scholar, 9-2 Prospector's Cove, Tarradale, 12-1 Half Tide, Noble Hero, Mister Munnelly, 14-1 others FORM VERDICT

This could be a messy race with pace not guaranteed, though lack of an out-and-out galop will probably not reconvenience CRIT-ICAL AIR, who can go close after a solid effort over course and

2.55 LADBROKE AW TROPHY HANDICAP (QUALIFIER) (E) (DIV I) £4,000 1m 60-000 BOLD ORIENTAL (84) (D) J Hills 4 10 0 -00600 TEOFILIO (49) (D) A McNae 4 10 0

3		MISTER TRICKY (179) (CD) P Michel 39 ft
•	300001	WARGIG BEACH (22) (CD) G L Moore 7 9 9 R Brisland (7)
5	346010	SCOTLAND BAY (44) (C) F Builer 395
8		SHAMWARI SONG (32) (D) N Calegher 3 9 3 W Ryan
7	080050	GREEN JACKET (10) Ř ÖSulken 391 S Whitworth 1
3	-63040	INCEPTA (136) P'S McEntee 3 9 0 T G McLaughli
•		KOMASEPH (18) R Marvin 6 8 10 S Righton (7
10		BEGUILE (10) R Ingram 4 6 7 R Perher
Ħ	134400	MRSS SICYE (220) (C) Mss 8 Sanders 3 8 4 G Bardwe
2		EFFEL TIGER (84) Bob Jones 3 7 13 F Norto
_		- 12 declared -
Æ	TTING: 1	42 Becufie, 4-1 Walklid Beach, 5-1 Mister Tricks, 8-1 Sc
		1 Teoffio, Sharmari Song, 12-1 Green Jacket, 14-1 other

FORM VERDICT BEGUIUE, who caught the eye here last time, will have a good chance in this moderate race if he reproduces that improved form; there is no reason why he shouldn't. Walldid Beach is the live-

3.25 LADBROKE AW TROPHY HANDICAP (QUALIFIER) (E) (DIV II) £4,000 1m

405441 PLAME TOWER (17) (0) R Harmon 393 ... P Dobbs (7) 10 00100 KAFL (USA) (8) (20) Brigger 4 9 2 G Bardwell 2 35001 RASPERRY SAUCE (12)(CD) C Oper 4 8 13 G Reufener (9) 3 6500 CHURCHELL'S SHADOW (12) (C) (8F) B Peace 4 9 10 ...

FORM VERDICT

Best Quest, Roleth Spiendour and Comedutathetog have som creditable efforts to their name on the surface of late, but the po tential improver is SMART KID, a tidy winner distance claimer on his track debut last time.

Tote lose the race for Coral shops

THE TOTE'S attempts to become a leading player in the offcourse betting market stalled vesterday when it pulled out of not be justified and so has now negotiations for the purchase of 831 Coral shops.

outlets, originally purchased by Ladbrokes but then put to auction after intervention from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and Peter Mandelson, is expected to be decided early next week. It is believed either Deutsche Bank or the venture capitalist group Cinven will win the bidding.

i ne Tote nas tadied a final and fully-financed bid of £375m vive and we will continue doing for Coral" a statement said ves- business. terday. "This bid has been re-

jected by Ladbrokes. The Tote board has determined that any bid in excess of this level canwithdrawn."

The future of these betting added: "It's a disappointment. We have been playing this poker game for the last couple of weeks and we bid up to the top level of what we thought the

RACING RESULTS

UTTOXETER Going: Good to Soft

12.30: (2m 4f 110yds novice hurdle) 1. STORM OF GOLD ... Magee 15-8 fav Atso: 4-1 Antifirman, 6-1 Ashgan, 7-1 The Good Knight (6th), 14-1 Blanc De Blanc, 16-1 Bunbury (4th), 20-1 Luggsy, 33-1 Kaz Kalem (5th), Rising Talisker, 50-1 Party Leader, 100-1 Anugraha. 13 ran. 1, 8, 8, 31/s, 1/s. (C Mann, Lamboum).

Tote: £3.40; £2.00, £1.80, £3.10. DF: £10.20.

1.00; (3m novice handicap chase) 2. True Fortune Cuffoty 8-1 3. Gallant Taffy A P McCoy 8-1 Also: 100-30 fav Ragfo (unseated rider), 11-2 Over Zealous (4th), 6-1 Caras Rose, 12-1 Skimabit, 14-1 Rambling Sam, 18-1 Lo-Flying Misale, Seymour Spy, 33-1 Loch Gar-man Hotel, Ring For Rosle (6th), 40-1 Charlie Hawes (5th), Mr Christie, The Other

15 ran. 1/s, 29, 7, 10, 1/s. (P Murphy, Bristol). Tote: \$89.50; £13.60, £2.20, £2.90 DF £18240 CSF: £183,74, Tricast: £1,594,61, Tri-fecta: £3,490,30; £3,441,18 carried forward to Ascot 215 today. NR: River Gala.

1.30: (2m 4f novice chase)
1. UNSWKABLE BOXER .A P McCoy 1-3 fav 2. Carry On BrendanR Johns

2.00: (2m handican humle)

 1. LORD RICHTIELDX Aizpuru 5-1
 Kingdom EmperorG Tormey 10-1
 3. Galant Mose.......A P McCoy 19-8 fav Also: 5-2 Mulciar (8th), 11-1 Saint Ciel, 12-1 Sarriand (8th), 25-1 Sound Appeal (4th), 7 ran. 5. 11/4, 1/4, dist, 1/4. (S Brookshew, UH-Ington), Total: £5:10; £180, £3:00. DF: £18.80.

2.30: (2m 4f 110vds novice burdle) 1. BATH HOUSE BOY_R John Asso: 11-2 Coxwell Cossack, Tricky Trevor, 10-1 Blackwater Brave, 14-1 Quickswood, 18-1 Artic Ground (5th), Carbury Cross (4th), 33-1 Abigalla Star, 50-1 Vale Hopper, 68-1 Caromisu (8th).
12 ran. 1, 7, 1/s, 20, dist. (H Daly, Ludiow)
Tota: £550; £220, £170, £170, DF: £970

CSF: £21.56. NR: Rising Trout. 3.00; (2m limited handcap chase)
1. NEARLY AN EYE Tizzard 11-8 fav

5 ran. 6, 21/s. 10, 22. (P Nicholis, Shepton Mallet). Tota: £2.70; £1.40, £1.60. DF: £3.70 CSF: £5.69.

9.30· (2m NH flat race) 1. STEEL BLADE_N Williamson 4-1 co fav 8-1 Adesso, 10-1 Barkingatth

8-1 Adesso, 10-1 Barkingatthermoon, 25-1 My Man Den (4th), 33-1 Althrey Torch 9 ran. 1/4, 7, 2, 3, 6. (K Bailey, Upper Lam. bourn). Tota: £4.50; £2.10; £2.50; £1.50 OF, £24.70; CSF: £26.35 Jackpot: £16,794.20; £21,258.44 carned forward to Ascot today.
Placepot: £98.90 Cuadpot: £25.40

Place 6: £162.78 Place 5: £76.72

Rob Hartnett, for the Tote,

shops were worth."

Coral, it appears, will now survive and maintain the Big Three, plus the Tote. "It's wonderful news," Simon Clare, their spokesman, said yesterday. "The Coral

Business, page 20

LINGFIELD

Going: Soft (Heavy in places)

12.35: 1. TICKERTY'S GIFT (M Batcheld) 6-4 tav; 2. Ferrers 9-4; 3. Norda ran. Nk, 4 (G L Moore, Brighton). Total £180; £110, £150, DF: £170, CSF: £462. 1.10: 1. MARLBOROUGH (R Dunwoody)

3-10 fav; 2. Brackenheath 13-2; 3. Layator d'Or 33-1.7 ran. 22. dist. (H Daiv. Ludiow). Tota: £130; £110, £220 DF: £210 CSF: £266. 1.40: 1. HANDY LASS (T J Murphy) 9-4 jt fav: 2. Heart 9-4 jt fav: 3. Be Brave 5-2. 4 nan. 3, dist. (J Smith, Heathfield), Tota: £300. DF: £3.00, CSF: £6.92

2.10: 1. BUCKSIDE (M A Fitzgerald) 2-5 tay; 2. Optimistic Thinker 5-1; 3. Greyton 12-1, 7 rain. 8, 4. (N Henderson, Lambourn). Total: £140; £110, £230, DF: £3.70, CSF: £248 2.40: 1. ROBORANT (S Durack) 4-1 co fav. 2. Out n'about 4-1 cCo tay 3. Noble Demand 4-1 co fev. 10 ran. 4-1 co fev inner. Light (pulled up). 2, 4, (J Akehurst, Upper amboum). Tota: £4.50; £1.60, £1.90, £1.40. DF: 2530, CSF: 217.11. 3.10: 1. THE LADY SCORES (I Galdetein)

9-2; 2. Lyphard's Fable 4-1; 3. Barhale Boy 8-13 fav. 5 ran. 15, hd. (S Dow, Epsom). Rote: 5440; £2.20, £180. DF: £5.30. CSF: £1998. 3.40: 1. GENEROUS DEAL (B Fenton) 10-1; 2. Jodi 1-10 fav; 3. Langiesford 9-1 4 ran. 3. B. (Mrs L Stubbs, York). Tota: \$5.40. DF: \$130. CSF: \$11.92 Placepot: £2050. Quadpot: £9.70.

Place 6: £13.13. Place 5: £11.12.

Going: Standard

11.50: 1. PERECAPA (G Faulkner) 100-30; 2. Sun Fairy 8-1; 3. Danka 16-1. 9 ran. 3-1

12.20: 1. RAMBO WALTZER (M Richard. son) 11-4 jt tav. 2. Jibereen 11-4 jt tev. 3. New Yorker 33-1, 15 ran. Nk, 7. (D Nicholis). Tota: £460; £140, £150, £890, DF: £800, CSF:

£982. NR: Lobuche. 12.50: 1. TIME OUT (C Lowther) 5-2: 2. Dud-

1.20: 1. HUGWITY (A Poli) 7-1; 2. Sustinch

E3.20. DF. E4.80. CSF: £13.35. NR: Antarctic Storm, Hoh Navigator, Just Nobby, Literite. 1.50: 1. RICH BALLERINA (R Fitzpetrick) 8-1, 2. Wain Mountain 3-1; 3. Lady Odd-job 11-4 tav. 16 ram. 1/3, 10. (D Carroll) Tota: £14.80; £4.50, £2.40, £2.10 DF; £29.20, CSF;

2.20: 1. ADELPHI BOY (I. Newton) 11-4 fav. 2. Rajmata 9-2; 3. Off Hira 6-1, 10 ran. 11/4 nic (M Chapman). Tota: \$3.70; \$150, \$140, \$2.60 DF: \$530, CSF: \$459. Tricast: \$66.58. 2.50: 1. ELTON LEDGER (R Price) 8-5 tay; 2. Ok John 20-1: 3. Garnock Valley 11-2 16 ran. 21, 11, (Mrs N Macauley). Tobal

Place 5: £3992 Place 5: £979

WARWICK 12.20 Stormhill Stag 12.55 About Turn 1.25 Estate Agent 2.00 Merry Prince 2.30 Gratomi 3.00 Nessun Doro 3.30 Kilbride Lad GOING: Good to Soft (Soft in places on hurdles track).

Course is W of city on B4095. S ations at Warwick (1m) and Learnington Spa (2m), ADMISSION: Club £13; Tattersalls £9 (cardcarrying students half-price, accompanied under-16s free); Course ES. CAR PARK: E5 in members; centre of course free. LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: M Pipe 23-96 (24%).

D Nicholson 20-100 (20%), Mrs J Pitman 14-67 (209%), N Twiston-Davies 11-80 (138%). ■ LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 21-50 (42%), N Williamson 77-76 (224%) R Johnson 15-66 (227%), A Maguire 13-58 (224%).

FAVOURITES: 147-389 (378%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Andy's Lad (1220). Abinger (1255).

Super Nova & Forest Mill (125), Court Ordeal (200), Rusk

12.20 MULLED WINE AMATEURS NOVICE H'CAP HURDLE (E) \$2,900 2m 3f

an weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Westcoast & Trymyply 9st 11lb, Cobia 9st 100, Roceveer 9st 4th.
BETTING: 5-1 Sutiest, 11-2 Noble Athlete, 6-1 Stormhill Stag, 7-1 Rusti,
B-1 Andy's Lad, 10-1 Grand Cru, 12-1 Lethylek, Sharbadarid, Lear Dancer,

FORM VERDICT

There should be plenty of pace on with three of the apparent principals in Sudest, Rusk and Andy's Lad suited by forcing taches STORMHILL STAG ran creditably in a strongly-run race last time and, with his stable in better form now, is expected to be

12.55 WARWICK ANNUAL MEMBERS NOVICE CHASE (D) £5,000 3m 2f

Turn, 10-1 Abinger, 33-1 others FORM VERDICT

A very tricky race in which there are question marks about all three previous winners. A chance is taken on David Nicholson's ABOUT TURN who will come on a lot for his debut effort. Knight's Crest is marginally preferred of the three with penalties and will be staying on at the death.

1.25 FESTIVE SPIRIT NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,900 added 2m 3f 14-055 NORMANEY ROAD (NZ) (7) G McCourt 7 11 10 ... H Offwer (5)

400-B0 AQUARIENA (5) F Murphy 5 10 7 21 5006 ULTRA PONTEM (18) P Neyveard 6 10 7T Descombe 21 declared –
BETTING: 9-4 Estate Agent, 7-2 Windross, 6-1 Indian Tracker, 12-1 Nor-

other Road, Damin Course, 14-1 Arms Girl, Kerry's Osts, 16-1 others

NAPS SELECTIONS

nces and is a tree-going sort who is unlikely to be i

_		3 (ADUAC E) #54246 ARREG 6 1 A 5111
		CROKER (23) (D) D Nicholson 11 4
		LORD OF LOVE (11) D Williams 1) 4
		BEHRAJAN (F131) H Daty 10 12 Cullot
	653P	COURT ORDEAL (16) R N Bevis 10 12 Mr R Fortistal (7)
		DORRINGTON (F150) B Bough to 12
		FAYEZ (F77) K McAuitle 10 12
	PO	FELONY (16) A Brotherton 10 12 K Johnson
	4	GOLDEN HAWK (USA) (16) S Dow 10 12 Gellegin
		LAFFAH (USA) (FSE) M Pipe 10 12 T Dascomb
ı		MERRY PRINCE (F74) P Hedger 10 12
		RESKNOWT GETNOWT (F447) R J Price 10 12_Mr P Costalio (
ļ		SAFI (23) D McCain 10 12R Bellan
ı		THE GENIE GENIE (16) M Heaton-Bits 10 12B Powe
ì	34	WINTERTIME (63) Mass E Lavelle 10 12
į		DESERT SONG (F75) R Frost 10 7
į		FORMER LOVE (F127) T Dormely 10 7 ME H Naughton (1
•		JUNE BOURTY (USA) (F82) I Williams 10 7
ŀ	0	MAKE IT SO (16) P Eccles 10 7
Į		MISS FARA (FR) (F86) M Pipe 10.7

PETTING: 9-2 The Gene Genie, 5-1 Croker, 11-2 Miss Ferz, 5-1 Lettah, 8-1 Behrajan, 10-1 Lord Of Love, 12-1 Golden Hends, Merry Prince, Wistersman, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT

and probably the pick on Flat form, is an interesting recruit.

405P-3 ROYAL MOUNTBROWNE (17) (0) Miss M Rowland 10 12 0

BETTING: 7-4 Min-Lou-And, 7-2 Melt The Clouds, 4-1 Nessun Doro, 6-Tonks, 10-1 Blurred, Dragon King, 20-1 Seetile Alley FORM VERDICT

num weight: 10st. Thus herdisep weights: Assehall Bst 80. ING: 4-1 Knock Lauder, 9-2 Soldier Mak, 5-1 Klibride Led, 8-1 Fei-h Bay, Take Cover, Vitaman, 10-1 Hever Golf Diamond, 14-1 others FORM VERDICT

Quite an open contest. Shephards Rest looks sure to go well for his in-form stable but invariably finds at least one too good, and is passed over in favour of VITAMAN, who scored at the first

time of asking lest term and goes well here. His stable sent out.

The Brewmaster to who after a tenestic set.

FORM VERDICT

WINDROSS will be difficult to beat if translating his bumper form to hundles and he can improve past Estate Agent today. The fly in the ontiment is Indian Tracker, who was nearly top class over

วั	nn] SANTA'S GROTTO NOVICE HURDLE	
_	·VV] SANTA'S GROTTO NOVICE HURDLE J (CLASS E) £2,900 added 3YO 2m	
	431	CROKER (23) (D) D Nicholson 11 4	1
2	3604	LORD OF LOVE (11) D Williams 1) 4	•
		BEHRAJAN (F131) H Daty 10 12 Cullot	,
	63P	COURT ORDEAL (16) F N Bevis 10 12 Mr R Fornistal (7) E	
		DOFFRINGTON (F150) B Bough to 12	,
		FAYEZ (F77) K McAulifle 10 12P Niver	ì
	PO	FELONY (16) A Brotherton 10 12 K Johnson	1
		GOLDEN HAWK (USA) (16) S Dow 10 12 Gelleghe	
		LAFFAH (USA) (FSE) M Pipe 10 12T Descombs	
		MERRY PRINCE (F74) P Hedger 10 2 M Richards	
		RESIGNOWT GETNOWT (F447) R J Price 10 12_Mr P Costalio (7	
	P	SAFI (23) D McCain 10 12R Bellane	,
	32	THE GENE GENIE (16) M Heaton-Bits 1) 12B Powel	i
	34	WINTERTIME (83) Mass E Lavelle 10 12	1
		DESERT SONG (F75) R Frost 10 7 J Pros	
		PRODUCTION TO THE PARTY OF THE	

NATALLE'S PET (F95) M Sheppard 10 7.S Kelly (5)

More rain would place unwelcome emphasis on The Gene Ge-nie's stamina, and he is passed over in favour of CROKER, whose Uttoweter form has been boosted. Miss Fera, bred for this game

2.30 MERCIA FM HANDICAP CHASE (C) £7,000 added 2m 4f 110yds 0F3F/4 OLD BRIDGE (\$11) (CD) O Sherwood 10 11 6 ... J A McCardin 1U3-6F PEACE LORID (26) (D) Mis D Hans 8 10 8 Lotalob 21-SFU GRATOM (19) (D) (BF) P Richers 8 10 0 S For

FORM VERDICT

The ground could be against Peace Lord, while Tight Fist would appreciate a sightly stiffer test of stamine. With the top two having plenty to prove, this looks a good opportunity for GRATOMI - though weighted up to his best - to return to winning form.

3.00 AMADEUS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m

Not the most competitive of events, and it can pay to take a chance on the fitness of the Martin Pope-trained MELT THE CLOUDS, who returns to the first on a fevourable mark and will reish the ground. Nessum Doro and Drag

3.30 CLARENDON PR HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m 3f

FORM VERDICT

005250 PERICLES (8) MSS G Keleway 4 8 12 _______ S Drowne 3 042230 STATE OF CAUTION (28) K Burie 5 8 12 ._____ D Sweenby 6 B 214/2 UMREAL CITY (10) (D) G Wragg 5 8 12 ._____ A Clark 8 Height S Talliann A. Clark 8 - decision - decision - ed decision - EETTING: 7-4 Nomine Mr Micaguy, 7-2 Dazzino, 4-1 Enrest City, 7-1 Raf-lan Symphony, 16-1 Apollo Red, State Of Caution, 14-1 Pericles, 33-1 Cipi De Reve

LINGFIELD

11.50 Ultra Beet 12.20 Seren Teg 12.50 Daunted 1.20 Unreal City 1.50 Miss Bananas 2.25 Jubilee Scholar 2.55 Beguile 3.25

Castle Ashby Jack STALLS: Stalls - inside, except 5t & 1m (outside). DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low best up to 7t.

■ Left-hand, sharp course.

■ Course is SE of lown on 82028. Lingfield station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course ADMISSION: Cub £13, Family Enclosure £10. CAR PARIC: Cub £3; rest free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS: G L Moore 92-7/2 (129%), M Johnston 54-308 (175%), R Hannon 52-410 (127%), Lord Huntingdon 50-245 (204%) LEADING JOCKEYS: J Weaver 83-397 (209%), A Clark 78-666 (11.7%), L Dettori 77-334 (23.1%), R Cochrane 69-400 (17.3%).

FAVOURITES: 787-2373 (33.2%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Riddle (visored, 12.20).

11.50 MINCE PIE HANDICAP (F) (DIV 1) £3,000 added 1m 2f 205453 CASTLES BURNING (8) (CD) C Cyter 4 9 13..G Faulton: (3)

FORM VERDICT

A typically tight and trappy AW handicap. CASTLES BURNANG, for whom this trip is ideal, has been running well and has a decent chance, though plenty of the others can be fancied against him.

12.20 CHRISTMAS CRACKER CLAIMING STAKES (F) £3,000 added 2YO 6f

FORM VERDICT

SEREN TEG has adapted well to the AW here and is fancied to appreciate the drop in class having run a creditable race in a course and distance nursery last time. 12.50 PLUM PUDDING NOVICE STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2YO 1m

| CCLASS D| E4,000 added 2YO Tm
| CCLASS D| E4,000 added 2YO T

If progressive Plying Officer gets the trip he will be very hard to beat, but with the doubt existing, preference is for DAUNTED, who probably found the extended 'nn just too far at Wolverhampton, and has solid earlier track form. 1.20 FESTIVE SPIRIT STAKES (CLASS D) 25,000 added 1m 000131 DANZINO (10) (C) (D) Mrs N Macauley 3.9 5,...P McCabe 2 V

مكذا من الاحلّ

ETT :

SOUTHWELL

fav Magical Shot (4th), 1,2 (. (B Paling), Total 25.20; £2.40, £1.30, £5.10, DF; £13.50, CSF:

ley Allen 25-1; 3, Le Szuvege 11-2, 8 ran. 13-8 lav Alwena (5th). 1, 8 (G Moore). Tota: 54-20; \$190, \$410, \$160. DF: \$5540. CSF:

Evens fav; 3. Yeoman Offver 7-1 12 ran. Sh-hd, 2. (G Bravery). Tote: £610; £140, £100.

22.20; £110, £560, £210 DF: £3480, CSF: 3.20: 1. FAR CRY (Mr C Vigors) 8-11 fav; 2.

Pickens 14-1; 3. Sharp Scotch 7-1, 12 rad Hd. B. (Sr Mark Prescott). Tota: £170; £120 2650, £170, DF: £16.20, CSF: £15.01, Tricust. 05797 NR: Rep Placapot: £21.80. Quadpot: £610.

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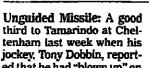
NDELENDENL*



PUNTERS' GUIDE

Tamarindo assisted by his tender years

The former top jump jockey Steve Smith Eccles analyses today's Betterware Cup



ed that he had "blown up" on the turn for home. Improvement can be expected. Tamarindo: Given a brilliant ride to win at Cheltenham by Tony McCoy, who has to be

the best jockey I have ever seen. This improving five-year-old will take all the beat-Callisoe Bay: A giant horse who has never really fulfilled his potential. Always threat-

ens, but rarely delivers. Philip's Woody: Won in fine style at Doncaster last week and will have an each-way chance if the ground comes up soft.

King Lucifer: Should improve for his Wetherby run and is quite useful on his on King Lucifer, who should day. An each-way contender. improve for his seasonal bow.

ASCOT

Dr Bones: Could run well if he repeats his Wetherby run but there must be some doubt about his ability to stay this three-mile trip that he attempts for the first time. Torduff Express: Lightly weighted and in good form.

He may make the frame at

best, but looks outclassed.

Conclusion: Yet another big chase at the mercy of Messrs Pipe and McCoy, whose TAMARINDO is an exciting prospect. Still open to improvement at the tender age of five, he looks too good for the more seasoned campaigners Philip's Woody and Unguided Missile, who are more likely than the rest to make a race of it. Those of you looking for each-way value may prefer to take a chance

1.40: Charlie Mann makes no secret of his regard for his recent Cheltenham winner Hoh Invader, the likely favourite today. BLUE-DONIX started favourite but having to concede 11lb to the was beaten into third that day, but with conditions and a weight pull in his favour can turn the tables.

Control (

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1.5

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Contraction

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1 - 25

103

2.15: Deano's Beano is the chosen one from eight entries Martin Pipe originally had in this race. He reportedly feels the six-year-old is top class, and he would need to be to beat the likes of last year's Cheltenham winner Princeful and PADDY'S RETURN, runaway winner of this race last year.

2.50: TAMARINDO justified his tall reputation with a brilliant win over a field of classy stayers at Cheltenham, and can justify a 9lb rise in the weights this afternoon. Unguided Missile finished ten lengths in arrears that day back in third place. He has a 10lb pull in the weights 3.40: TAUFAN BOY failed on a track where he has a narrowly against the backgreat record

UTTOXETER

2.10: SURSUM CORDA can rain has increased his only find this easier after chance.

HYPERION'S

TV TIPS

talented four-year-old Flagship Uberalies at Exeter. He should get a fast pace from chasing newcomer Nipper Reed so has chances of outstaying Distant Echo and Hoh Express.

2.40: GIGI BEACH may not

have too much finishing pace but he does gallop and has over a stone less to carry after the latest defeat at Newton Abbot. Lord Khalice has an interesting look with only 10st and rates the best each-way investment.

3.10: COUNTRYMAN did enough on his chasing debut behind Distant Echo at Chepstow to suggest he will take some beating off 10st 9lb in this weak handicap.

to-form Bramblehill Duke at Newbury. That was a creditable effort and yesterday's

lengths to Generous Deal. who

Doumen was far from de-

does not worry me too much.

Doumen's 1-10 loser

BRAVE PUNTERS who decided failed to quicken in the final fur-Lake the odds of 1-10 offered long and went down by three lengths to Generous Deal, who trained Jodi in the bumper at was giving the trainer Linda Lingfield yesterday suffered Stubbs her first winner under an expensive and painful re- National Hunt rules.

The French raider, part- spondent over the defeat of his nered by the trainer's son prohibitively-priced newcom-Thierry, was the subject of two er and observed: "It was lack of bets of £100 to £800 and one of experience and the ground. It

£100 to £1,200.

However, after looking sure After all, the winner is by Gen-

to win on the home turn, she erous." 10-YEAR-TALE ON THE BETTERWARE CUP 1988 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 Fate of the favourities: 1/F P F A 2 1 1/3 1/2/F/U 1 1

Winner's place in betting:1J 0 3 A 0 1 1J 1C 1 1 13-8 33-1 5-1 A 7-1 11-8 3-1 7-2 4-1 5-2 104 100 ft10 A 101 ft10 109 108 100 105 Winners' weights: 7 7 9 A 7 6 7 7 7 9 Profit or loss to £1 stake: Fevourites +£6.30 Second Fevourites -£800 Percentage of winners placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in last race: 67% Shortest-priced winner: Young Hustler (1993) 11-8 Longest-priced winner: Solidasarock (1989) 33-1 Top trainer: N Twistor-Davies - Capitalin Dibble (1992), Youing Hustler (1993)

FIRST SH	10 W

Top jockey: C Liewellyn - Captain Dibble (1992). Young Hustler (1993)

				s	T
	_ <u>c</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>		
Princeful	11-4	3-1	3-1	3-1	3-1
Deano's Beeno	11-4	3-1	7-2	103	3-1
Paddy's Return	11-2	5-1	41	9-2	5-1
Splandid Thyrae	19-1	B-1	9-1	6-2	8-1
Ocean Hawk	10-1	10-1	10-1	9-1	12-1
Castle Sweep	10-1	11-1	10-1	71-5	14-1
Shooting Light	14-1	14-1	14-1	14-1	141
Tumpole	<u>[2-1</u>	12-1	14-1	12-1	Q -1
Mr Percy	1 5-1	15-1	18-1	20-1	16-1
Cyborgo	25-1	20-1	8-1	25-1	161
Pheranear	33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1	28-1
Steer Wedge	33-1	33-1	25-1	25-1	33-1
Anzum	40-1	40-1	40-1	40-1	28-1
Each wey, a q	ueder (ne ordite	, place	s 1, 2,	3

•		C	_ н	L	T
	Zapty Lase	52	41	41	41
	Sty Locky	11-2	6-1	13-2	6-1
ŀ	Hoodelsker	7-1	7-1	6 -1	7-1
	Rectory Garden	11-2	6-1	61	7-1
	Lord Khelice	7-1	8-1	7-1	84
	Gigi Beach	8-1	15-2	9-1	8-1
	Havelin Youth	8-7	9-1	9-1	7-1
l	High Alkitorie	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1
	Trouvelle	12-1	\$-1	12-1	10-1
	Foots Errand	20-1	20-1	20-1	15-1
	Master Boston	20-1	16-1	16-1	51
	Bayfate Star	33-1	23-1	25-1	33-1
	Ten Soldier	331	33-1	33-1	40-1
	Each way, a q	arter (hé	odds, pi	ices 1, 2	3

UTTOXETER 2.40

≯THE IND		
RACING 0891	SERV 261	
UOJI		RESULTS
ASCOT	971	981
WARWICK	972	987
UTTOXETER	973	_ 983
AGRELD	974	<u>984</u> _
0891 2		
Calls cost Slip per asseste. L	LS. (ad. Scrott	= ½ (CA 47)

ASCOT 2.50 na 54 54 54 64 (Ingelded Missile 41 5-1 92 92 92 Torchill Express 11-2 11-2 5-1 6-1 9-2 King Landler 61 7-1 6-1 \$3-2 6-1 Philip's Woody 10-1 8-1 8-1 8-1 10:1 8:1 12:1 13:1 8:1 Dr Bones College Bay 101 (2-1 14-1 15-1 14-1 Each way, a quarter the odds, places 1, 2

C Corat M William HB, L Laubedes, \$ Starley, T Tale

ASCOT

HYPERION

12.35 KURAKKA (nap) 2.15 Paddy's Return 2.50 Tamarindo

1.10 Squire Silk (nb) 1.40 Biuedonix 3.20 Toto Toscato

GOING: Chare course - Good to Solt, Hurdies course - Soft

Right-hand course with testing uphilitines.

Course is near junction of A339 and A330. Access from M3 (June 3) and M4 (June 6) Rollway station (service from London, Waterloo) adjoins course ADMISSION: Members £5 ftr. 25 year-clots half-proet: Grandstand & Paddock £10; Silver Ring £5. CAR PARK: Not 1 2 & 3 £4, remainder free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

I SADMIC TRAINERS: D Nicholson 20 wire from £7 numers £324. M Pipe £5-78 (92%).

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholson 20 was from 87 numers (23%), M Pipe 15-78 (192%), K Bailey 13-58 (224%) N Twiston-Davies 12-64 (193%)

LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 28 was from 105 rides (26.7%), J Oaborne 22-84 (26.2%), R Durwoody 19-17 (16.2%), N Williamson 16-75 (21.3%).

FAVOURITES: 127 wars from 29 rides (success rate 38.6%).

BLINNERED FIRST TIME: None.

LONG DISTANCE TRAVELLER: Unguided Missile (250) has been sent 288 miles.

12.35 BOOK OF MUSIC' NOVICE CHASE (GRADE 2) (CLASS A) £19,000 added 2m 3f 110yds Penalty Value £12,260

1	05-213	BILLINGSGATE [14] (C) (D: D Chezrey & Mrs B Checrey) D Esworth 6 m to P Holio
2		NO RETREAT (NZ) (21) (D) (M W & A N Harris) 5 Brookshaw 5 ft to
3		COUNTRY SEAU (23) (D) (Mrs J.J.Peopalt) J king 6 ti 7M A Regerale
4		KURAKKA (44) (Mrs M C Sweeney) J Gifford 5 tt 3
5		LETS BE FRANK (10) (D) (Ars M M Stobart) N Chance 7 ft 3 5 Durad
6		ROSENCRANTZ (623) (C) (Mrs / Philips) Miss V Williams 6 Ti 3 N Williamson
7	3.31	SILENT CRACKER (15) (Silent Partners) M Promon 6 tf 3
8		STRONG PALADIN (15) (D) (4ts A Brode) T Casey 7 (1 3 T J Murph) - 8 declared -
gate	, 10-1 Ro	? No Retreat, 3-1 Country Beeu, 100-30 Kurahtu, 11-2 Lets Be Frank, 15-2 Billings sencrantz, 12-1 Silent Cracker, Strong Paladin ong ? 11 10 R Durwoody 2-1 (S Dow) 3 ran
		FORM VERDICT

A competitive openar which can go to BILLINGSGATE whose close third to Dines at Sandown looks smart form, He will be suited by this longer trip and can inflict a first chasing defeat on the promising too No Retreat, Country Beau and Kurekaa

	1	.10	FROGMORE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £14,000 added 2m Penalty Value £9,267
1	1	5(24-)	CELIBATE (14) (CD) (Stamford Bridge Parmership) C Morri 7 (20Mr N Febiliy (7)
ı	3		SCHARE SILK (49) (D) (R Ogden) P Nicholls 9 Ti 5 R Dumeoutly
1	3		STORM ALERT (29) (CD) (Mrs D Penety D Nicholson 12 11 0 A Maguire
1	4	102 F5	MULKEY PRINCE (29) (D) (W M G Black) J H Johnson 7 to 4 N Williamson
ı	5		GET REAL (30) (D BF) (Poneer Heal-Treatment) N Henderson 7 to 1 M A Fitzgerald
1			- 5 declared -
	BET	TING: 11	4 Storm Alert, 3-1 Squire Silk, 190-30 Get Rool, 9-2 Celibata, 11-2 Mulkey Prince
			6.11.7 M.A. Fitzoryaki R-1 (C. Narro) 7 mm

FORM VERDICT Unlikely to be any hanging around here as four of the tive can front run. This could set things up for the come-from-behind SQUIRE SILK, who is well treated on his novice form and who shaped with plenty of promise on his return here in October in a hot event.

1.40 MITIE GROUP KENNEL GATE NOVICE HURDLE (GRADE 2) (A) £14,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £9,002 20-114 BLUEDONIX (FR) (35) (CO) (Mrs D Thompson) D Nicholson 5 tl 7 ... A Magains

prik and grey dismonds, prik cap 1-1 HIDEBOUND (38) (D) (W Y & Mrs E S Robins) N Henderson 6 17 4 . M A Fitzgezald

1997 Waniba Sands 4 11 Q A P McCoy 5-4 lav (J Dunlop) 9 ran FORM GUIDE

Bluedonic: Slow early pace did not suit when 5 length fourth to Hoh Invader (7th worse off) in Grade 2 nonce at Chetenham (2m, good to soft) last month. Previously impressive winner of two novices, including over course and distance

High Invader: Highly thought-of full brother to top class hunder Date Star where on-Pressure Chelterham win (beat Ashley Muck 4 lengths), has worked out well. Renzor Useful stayer on the Flat, looked a bargain at 5500 gris when making a 10 length winning hundles debut for new stable over 100ay's course and distance (Tower Street third). Fell at the third flight when taking on top-class company at Newcastle Intertume.

tist umg Salamah: Summer purchase (92,000 gns) from Roger Charton's stable. Made promis-male hu to tenethe in Newbury Ern, soft) incree Selement Commer purposes (section grant mayor Colombia statute trade prome-ing start over hurdes, bearing ordinary make by 12 lengths in Newbury (Em. soft) incince last month. Highly regarded by James Octoone. Hidobound: Impressive bumper wither last spring who made successful hurding debut by 6 lengths at Newbury (Em. good) last month, Looks luture chasing prospect. From

er Street: 14 lengths behind Renzo (7th worse off) when one-paced third at Ascot. on his first outing for two years. Should improve for that run but unlikely to be good.

Sporadic Misalie: Improving hist-trained filly was driven out to win 16-numer nonce at Urtowier (2m, good to soft) last month, beating Duniston 6th 1 in lengths VERDICT: There stroug be intie between BLUEDONIX and Holi Invador on their fundring at Chetanham, with the lates now its worse off for the 5 length margin over his rival. However David Nicholsons charge will love the soft ground and just gets the nod. The dork horses of the rice are classy. Newbury winner Salamah, and Renzo, who

2.	15	SMURFIT LONG WALK HURDLE (GRADE 1) (A) £45,000 added 3m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £29,574
1	03132	ANZIM (646) (Old Forecasts Partnershot) D Nicholson 7 ft 7
		clarit Divin and yellow stripes, white steemes and cop
2	2338/3	CASTLE SWEEP (29) (Loct Yesley) D Nichelson 7 ft ?
		royal ticus, white striped sleeves
3	1/P2P.	CYBORGO (275) (C) (D) (County Stones Holdings) M Pine S 11 7
	yellou	i, maroon cross bells, royal blue steeves, royal blue and yellow quariered cas-
4	5/111-	DEANO'S BEENO (367) (Assm) M Pge 6 Tl 7
	da	A blue, when shower, clar blue diamends, white cap, clark blue diamends
5		MR PERCY (SA) (C) (Fels Rosenste's Widow & Son) J Griand 7 to 7

white, rick simple
TURNPOLE (29) (Nr & Mrs W J Walans) Nrs M Reveloy 7 m 7. . . . Mr A Dempsey royal bise, yellow straed seems, myal bise cap, yellow star - 13 declared -

BETTRIQ: 3-1 Princetul, 7-2 Deano's Benno, 4-1 Paddy's Return, 9-1 Splendid Thyne, 10-1 Cas-tio Sweep, Ocean Hawk, 14-1 Shooting Light, Turnpole, 16-1 Cyborgo, Mr Percy, 25-1 Säver Yiedge. 1397 Paddys Return 5 tt 7 N Williamson 9-1 (F Marphy) 7 ran

FORM GUIDE

Ancum: Has not wan since putting in the performance of his life to be second to Karshi in the Stayers' Hundle at the 1997 Cheftenham Festival in the Stayers: Hurdle at the 1997 Chetterinam Fastival
Costile Sweep: Very good hurdler two seasons ago won Tote Siver Trophy at Chepstow). Having first not for nearly two years when one-paced third, 7 lengths behind
Juyush here (2m 4t, good to soft). Sure to come on for that rust
Cytorgo: A game from-running chases, lightly raced last season - and not seen out
since pulling-up lame in last seasons Gold Cup. Probable warm-up for his chasing

Deano's Beeno: Highly regarded winner of three hurdles last season, most recently a 3m hondicap at Bangor lest December. Had to mass the Stayers Hurdle at Cheterchaim due to mury but trainer reports he is now spot on Mr Percy: Takes big step up in the after running twice over 2m this term, the first an impressive with here (heavy), before disappointing behind Grey Shot at Chettenham

last month
Ocean Hawk: Reverts to hurding after moody displays nowce chasing. Won Grade
2 event on heavy ground at Worcester (2m 7h) last month despite almost refusing at
the last. Finished of third to Princeful in Stayer's Hurdie at the Festival
Paddy's Return: Top staying hurder, reportedly injured when disappointing fifth in Stayers' Hurdie last season. Has not taken to chasing in his two outings this term but trainer reports he is at his peek for the race, which he won last season by 19 lengths
Pharameer: Jumped sketchilly when 9 lengths 5th to Brave Tomado at Chetrehram
(3m, good to soft) last week. Held by Princeful on previous run at Newbury
Princeful: A surprise winner of last season's Stayers' Hurdie, he showed that to be no
fluke with a game 2's length win over a fitter Shooting Light (7th better off) at Newbury (3m, soft) at the end of last month
Shooting Light: High-class hurder, ran up to his best at Newbury when he led from

Shooting Light: High-class hurdler, ran up to his best at Newbury when he led from the seventh until being caught on the run-in by Princehul Previously 20 lengths fifth in Tote Silver Trophy at Chepatow Silver Wedge: 1955 winner of this race. Won on the flat in October but was having first outing over hurdles after long lay-off through Injury when unconvincing 8th, beaten 43 lengths, by Mister Morose at Chepatow (2m 41, good to soft) last month

Spiendid Thyra: Looked ring rusty when pulled up behind Mister Morose at Cheptow on the seasonal bow, but put in a similar poor debut last season before withing four handicaps and finishing second to Princetu in the Stayers Hurdio Tumpole: Closely matched with Castle Sweep on their running behind Juyush nere (2m =1 good to soft) last month when Turrocke was ... length ahead in second place

VERDICT: Pointers for the Chellenham Festival should be provided by a fascinating contest between these top-class staying hunders. Princeful holded as good as ever on his sessonal bow and plane to send him chasing have been shelved in order to racide a programme of valuable hunde races again. By contrast, PADDY'S RETURN. has had an unhappy expenence chasing but has been reportedly schooling well back over hurdes and will take all the beating if he can recapture the form of last seasons

spanking performance in this race Deeno's Boano is highly regarded by Martin Pipa,

runners always comend respect.

2.50 BETTERWARE CUP (HANDICAP CHASE) (8) EBC1

		127,230
1	ap-P3	UNIQUIDED MESSILE (8) (CD) (D E Hamson) N Fechands 10 12 0 A Dobb Soil blue, royal blue trate diamond, diamonds on diseves and cap
2	মা- ট	TAMARINEDO (FR) (E) (D) (D A Johnson: M Pipe 5 11 11
		royal blue, emeratel green sleeves, within cap, emeratel green sport
3	1P33-5	CALLISOE BAY (22) (R Waters) (1 Sherwood 9 10 10
	cterk b	tup, emerald grean stars, dark blue siervec, dark bluu cap, emerald, green star
4	2-0545	PHILIP'S WOODY (7) (B R Wildon) N Hemberson 10 10 3 M A Pitzgeral red, brown hoop, stroad sleenes
5		KING LUCIFER (14) (C) (D) (Mr. A.J. Davas) D Nicholson 9 10 5 A Maguil black and white (quartered), when shelves, black diamonds, orange cap
6	21-421	DR BONES (14) (Ars A Forture) F Murphy 5 to 1
7		TORDUFF EXPRESS (30) (D) (SF) (Two Pits Two) ? Nicrost 7 150 T J Mainth
		range and yellow diamonds, sloped skroves, yellow cap, orange diamond
		- 7 declared -

BETTING: 11-8 Tamarindo, 5-1 King Luciter, Tordulf Express, Unguided Missale, 9-1 Dr Boner :0-1 Philip's Woody, 10-1 Callison Bay 1997: Coal Dawn 9 10 5 A Thornton 5-2 fav (R Alnes) 6 ran

FORM GUIDE

Maranan seriote 10st. True handicap weight. Tordat Express 9ct 13fb

Unguided Missile: Won this race in 1995 and has been placed twice since. 10to better cit with Tamarando for limshing third, beaten 10 lengths, in a Chelterham (2m 1), good to soft) handicap last week. Tamarindo: Very progressive French-bred chaser who beat a strong field at Cheffenham last week despite blundering at the last tence. Raised 9to to: that effort but stall on the

Califisce Bay: Beeten 33 langths when fifth to Stormy Passage at Newbury on his

seasonal bow, he has reportedly suffered wind problems. Seemed to lose his way last season but well-handicapped on his best form. Philip's Woody: Won a four-numer handicap chase at Doncaster (2m 3), good) last. reek. Previously finished 31/s lengths ahead of Calisoe Bay at Newbury but is 5to worse.

King Lucifer: Winner of the Kim Mur at Chefenham in 1997, not seen out until promising 25 lengths third to Random Harvest at Wetherby Gm 11, good) two weeks ago Has a great chance if he makes the expected improvement from that run es: Sound jumper who put in his best effort this term when wrong a handcap at Wetherby (2m 4f, good) test week. All his best form is over shorter than 3m

Torduff Express: Suffered no disgrace in peng beaten by the progressive Alangeorge at Warwick (3m 2t good to firm) last month, though looks to have sufficient VERDICT: TAMARINDO won impressively arrough at Chettenham last week to suggest he can dety a hike in the weights and give his Welsh Habonal credentials a turther boost, especially since the compension, on the face of it, does not look so hot. Unquided Missile, third to Tamarindo last week, has a substantial pull in the weights and a Bung for Ascot, but he had a hard race at Cheltenham and a greater threat may be King Luciter. David Nicholsons high-class chaser looked to have retained at his ability at Wetherby and seems sure to progress again.

3.20 KNIGHTS ROYAL HURDLE (B) £12,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £8,325

1	-C353F	MATINEE LOVER (FR) (20) (A Rearts) F Doumen (Fr) 4 71 Tú	T Downer
2	345-41	TOTO TOSCATO (FR) (24) (D) (Mrs H J Clerke) D Micholson 4 ft 70	A Maguire
3	3511-0	MAKOUNJI (FR) (189) (RViziey-Cohert) N Handerson 4 ft 5	M A Fitzgerald
4	F112-4	CITY HALL (21) (D) (Mrs Fi F key & Mrs V Ward) Mrs V Ward 4 m 2	R Thornton
		- 4 declared -	
85	7781C: 44	O Tata Tananta 11.4 Malayari 100 20 Maliana i avas 7.9 Câu Hall	

1997 Mr Markham 5 10 12 P Hide 9-2 (J Gifford) 5 ran

FORM VERDICT

A delve through the French formbook suggests Makounil was a better hurdler there than either Toto Toscato or Mattinee Lover, although her lack of a recent run and Toto Toscato's impressive win at Chepstow suggests that may not be borne out today. However in receipt of weight from all three. CITY HALL could give them all a run for their money.

UTTOXETER

12.30 Jungli 2.40 Gigi Beach 1.00 Trakelor 3.10 Countryman 1.35 Norlandic 3.40 Taufan Boy 2.10 Sursum Corda

GOING: Soft Left-hand course. Run-in of 170yds. ■ Course is SE of town near 85017. Uttorieter station (Derby-Crewe line) adjoins course. SION: Club £15 (QAPs £12): Tattersells £10 (QAPs £7): Centre of cou CAR PARK: Free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 32 wms from 117 runners (success rate 274%), D Nicholson 22 wins from 96 runners (22,9%), K Bailey 19-103 (18,4%), O Sherwood 18-M LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCov 30 wits from 109 rides (success rate 275%). R

ody 23 was from 117 rides (19.7%), N Williamson 22-116 (19%), R Johnson 20-45 M38%L ■ FAVOURITES: 252 wins from 669 races (37.7%). BLINKERED FIRST YIME. Twisted Logic (1.35).

12.30 TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL PAST PUPILS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m Penalty Value

1	11-10-	APUN ALIMEN (39) (Infoe Info) P HOXOS 5 Ti 7			
2	Q/P6-0	ALTHREY CAPTAIN (22) (F Lloyd) W Clay 8 to 12			
3	3-544R	BANAWAR (USA) (8) (Miss G OFerrali) D Carrol 4 to 12			
4	00.00	CONSTANT HUSBAND (8) (5 Corbet) R N Bevs 5 to 2			
5	343-3	JUNGLI (38) (Mrs P Starkey) P Wester 5 to 12 J A McCarthy			
6		MERLEUR (F44) (Cottage Racing Portnership) Lady Herries 4 10 12 A Thornton			
7	0-0	MUHASSIL (190) (A W Watpole) K Morgan 5 to 12			
6	60-350	CAPSOFF (14) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 5 to 7			
9	OF-	GAY ARCTIC (213) (A L Hobbs) P Hobbs 5 10 7			
		- 9 declared -			
BETTING: gvens Jungil, 7-2 Afon Alwen, 4-1 Melileur, 14-1 Muhasell, Capsoff, 20-1 Benaver, 25-1					
_					

Gay Arctic, 33-1 others Polar Prospect 4 10 12 G Tormey 7-1 (P Hobbs) 15 ran FORM VERDICT

Alon Alwen must be regarded as under a cloud at present and this could be the op-portunity for JUNGLI to open his account over hundles after a promising first effort at Newbury. Meltileur has some Flat-race speed and is a potential threat if his jumping is

ALAN POVEY SIGNS NOVICE SELLING HURDLE (G)

3	.UU	£2,000 added 3YO 3m 110yds Penalty Value £1,690
ı		ALLEGIANCE (33) (P Wegmann) P Wegmann 11 3
	067	THE ROBE (23) (G W Day) A Carrol 10 12
•	A	DELMO (8) (D J Chresiopher) R Smoson 10 10 B Dove (7)
i	0	GI BILLES (35) (A Creates Brown) R Simpson 10 10
,	00	LAWYER'S DREAM (16) (M.J. Perkins) T George 10 to
i		MYSTERY MAN (F301) (P Bradley) P Bradley 10 10 B Harding
7		OFTMESTIC CHRIS (F160) (Optimistic Racing) A Streeter 10 10
3	٥	PINSHARP (17) (D Bostock) R Ford 10 to
•		SENOR HURST (28) (Mrs P Sky) Mrs P Sky 10 10
0	ø	TOP MAITE (72) (Top Maite Partnershp) G Charles-Jones 10 10 R Studholme (5)
1	290	BRETECHE (FR) (16) (G Scanlon & Mass J Kink) M Proe no 5 G Supple (3) E
2	P	FAIRY THREE (28) (Mrs C Miler) K Morgan to 5
3	444	HELENES HILL (9) (J Starbusk) J L Harris 105 L O'Harris
4	0	HORIZONTAL (23) (The Flatiners) W Clay 10 5
5	OP	RUBY BEAR (18) (D J Kintand) W Brisbourne 10 5 J Goldstein (5)
6		TRAKELOR (23) (L.A. Morgan) R Hollinshead 10.5
-	-	- 16 declared -
-	THE SA	Budorka 2.1 Holonoo Hill 7.1 Const Hotel 12.1 The Boke Mectors Man. 14.1 Lauver)

Dream, Trakelor, 20-1 others 1997: Silent Valley 3 10 5 A Thornton 9-4 tev (Miss L Skidali) 11 ran FORM VERDICT

BRETECHÉ has shown enough to suggest she should have no difficulty picking up a race in this grade and is preferred to Helenes Hill, who was in front of Trakolor, Horizontal and Lewyers Dream when a fair tourth in a non-seller over this course and distance test month. Gl Blues could be interesting at decent odds. 1.35 MOBILEFONE CONDITIONALS NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (E) £3,000 added 2m Penaity Value £2,484

- 16 declared -Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight. Pennyakei 3st 13th. BETTING: 5-1 Aren't We Lucky, 6-1 Double Strike, 7-1 Twisted Logic, 8-1 Lucky Ross, Norlandie, 16-1 Weigh Park, 12-1 Hoppy Minstral, Bowles Patrol, 14-1 Pennyahel, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT

ain a competitive staying handicep NORLANDIC is given a fairly confident vote after his eye-catching effort behind very useful Rios King at Chepstow. He meets nothing of that calibre here and should improve for the step up to 3m. The dangers are Native Buck\and

HEATHYARDS ENGINEERING NOVICE CHASE C4 (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m Penalty Value £3,485

44321 DISTANT ECHO (AU) (an incoming in resource on our community and co pink, velow sleeves, pink armiets, striped cap

BETTING: 9-4 Distant Echo, 5-2 Country Star, 4-1 Hoh Express, 9-2 Sursum Corda, 8-1 Nippe Reed, 20-1 Verywell 1997: Leke Kanba 6 11 12 R Thomson 1-3 fav (P Nicholis) 6 ren

FORM GUIDE

ant Echo: Found Collier Bay a shade too classy at Newton Abbot and made all to beat Reliander (winner since) at Chepstow. Jumps well so obvious chance. Hoth Express: Took advantage of competing in lower grade to beat High in The Clouds at Hereford after seconds to Dines and Mountain Storm. Returns to a strong race

Country Star: Formerly with Charlie Brooks and generally highly tried over tences after four hurdle wins. Sure to come on for his spritted head-2nd to Desert Mountain at Warnwick three weeks ago-his first attempt since February Mipper Read: Useful hurdler (three wins here) who jumps fences for the first time. Likes to force the pace and could trouble them all with a clear round. Sursum Cordia: Slift task on chasing debut when 2nd to Flagship Uberales, who was getting filib, at Exeter but still finished a head clear of Sad Med Bod, a winner in the week. Sure to do better even over a trip short of his best Verywell: Tailed off behind Brother of his at Hurtingdon and finished very tired when beaten a long way by Kadou Nonantais here last time. Stiff task

VERDICT: Distant Echo has been jumping well and trotted up from Reliander at Chepstow, while Holt Express has twice jumped a clear at Kempton and won easily enough in the lower grade at Hereford. A tricky race with Country Star and Sursum Cordia capable of traptoing on their seasonal efforts and with decorpt front-indications course specialist NIPPER REED making his bow over fences. With the ground to suit Rod Sempsons charge could pull it off.

2.40 MANNY BERNSTEIN 'EARLY-PRICE TEXT' HANDICAP CHASE (D) £5,000 added 3m Penalty Value £3,599

1	13-32	RECTORY GARDEN (28) (CD) (Earl Cadogan) H Daly 9 12 0 A Thornton ston blue
2	423/3-	STAY LUCKY (NZ) (267) (M Buckley) N Henderson 9 11 11
3	021P-2	HIGH ALLITTUDE (35) (F J Sansbury) M Heaton-Elic 10 11 7 L Wyer
	yearow.	emerald green diamond, emerald green diamonds on yellow diesess and cap
4	3459-3	FOOLS ERRAND (9) (Mrs D Russell) G Balding 8 tl 2 G Bradley
		green, black sleevas, yellow cap
5	31-451	HOODWINKER (19) (CD) (P A Howell) W Jerks 9 to 13
		orange, emerald green hoops on body, quartered cap
5	22-3F1	ZAGGY LANE (18) (E T Weyl P Rodlard 6 10 8 S Burrough
		fight blue, red stars, stoped sleeves and cap
7	5326F5	MASTER BOSTON (21) (M K Oldham) R Woodhouse 10 10 8 B Harding
		black and white (helved), sleeves reversed, quartered cap
8	UP3-6P	BAYLINE STAR (9) (A J Baile) Miss S Baxter 8 10 8
		dark blue, yellow stars, dark blue sleeven, yellow seemn
9		HAWABAN YOUTH (18) (D) (D Czametzid) G McCourt 10 10 8
10	U11-23	GIGI BEACH (18) (D) (BF) (C I A Paterson) P Nichols 7 to 7
П	1-1P58	LORD (CHALICE (8) (C) (D) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 7 to 0 Michael Brenster
		emerald green, white sleeves, emerald green and white check cap
2	4/40-3	TIM SOLDIER (FR) (34) (M F Sarraclough) Miss A Stokel 11 10 0
		yellow, royal blue singe and armies
0	234-24	TROUVABLE (35) (A Sterrett & Mrs J M Sternett) A Turnel 7 10 0
		beige and emerald green check, beige sleeves
		- 13 declared -
		ht: 10st. True handiçap weights: Tim Soldier 9st 13lb, Trouvalte 9st 13tb.
-	DNG: 4.4	Zanar I and 6 4 Manufadahar Boston Gordon 12.2 Struct unity 7.1 Land Madica

ane, 6-1 Hoodwinker, Rectory Gerden, 13-2 Stay Lucky, 7-1 Lord Khailce. Ian Youth, 10-1 High Albitude, 12-1 Trouvaide, 16-1 Master Boston, 20-1 Fools Errand, 25-1 Bevline Star, 33-1 Tim Soldier 1987: Rectory Garden 8 ft 12 J Culloty 7-4 fav (T Forster) 4 ran

FORM GUIDE

Rectory Contere Best General Ponco in the race last year and then won all Windsor. Best in these type of razes when conceding weight and ran up to his mark against Solo Gent at Humbingdon (3m6f) lest time. More suitable trip today Stay Lucky: Winning chaser in New Zealand and has shown plenty of abity in the country but has had he problems. 3rd to Lance Armstrong at Newbury on only start last season and in a weakish race today. Stable going well with their fresh horses. High Altitudes Good effort at the weights on reappearance when 4-length 2nd to Samon works. mourswift at Windsor. Heydock winner last term with a lower weight and today!

Fools Errand: Hasn't won since March, 1997, and now 12th lower than when last estul. Had stiff bask with 12st on reappearance when 3rd to Bold Statement Hoodwinker: Winner over hurdles and fences here end hed a rusty Bold Statemen

and sure to go close with ground conditions to suit Zeggy Lame: Came from two strong races (Cheltenham and Worcester) to best Aavasaksa in the soft at Newton Abbot (2m51). May Improve again for this longer trip Master Boston: Without a win for almost three years and hard tol tancy today Beyline Star: Only win gained in modest affair at Plumpton. May have found trip Gm4f) too far when pulled up behind Noosa Sound at Market Rasen tast time (3m4f) not tar when pulled up behind Noosa Sound at Market Rasen last time Hawaillan Youth: Hampered when unseated rider on home bend in Philatelics race at Windsor lest time. On a good handicap mark but some time since his last win Glig! Seach: Out-and-out galloper (two wins at Fontwell) who has a lower weight to shoulder after his letest 9-length 3rd to Baroncelliat Newton Abbot (3m2f). Previously 2nd to Misser Blake over the same course and distance. Leading chance Lord Khallies: Won here over hurdles and ran well for a long way in nowce chase won by Brother Of ins at Doncaster recently. Likely to figure with a low weight Time Soldier: Last won in March of last yeer but this trip more suitable after his sea-sonal attempt at Towtester (3rd to Mr Conductor) Trouvellle: Turned over warm favourite John Drumm at Windsor lest season. Made numerous mistales at Windsor last time when 4th to Seymourswrift (about 4-lengths behind High Altitude and now 2b better off)

behind High Alittiude and now 25 better off)

VERDICT: Hoodwinker gets the trip in the ground and looks a threat to them all after the latest win at Worcester. Rectory Garden is a hardy campaigner who does best when conceding weight to inferior mask and he landed this stog tast year GIGI BEACH will probably try and make all end has a decent chance after humping a big weight over a longer trip at Newton Abbot. With 10st 7th lodgs, he looks the right choice, lack of a recent run shoutch to too much of a handcap for Stay Lucky, while the heart outside is left lifted and recent statement. while the best outsider is Lord Khalice after his two novice attempts

3.10 PETER J DOUGLAS ENGINEERING NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (E) 25.000 added 2m 5f

Penalty Value £3,745	ieu zin ji Gerean
reliaity value 23,745	
1 312-61 CLOO HOPPER (9) (T J Parrott) I Williams 8 Tl 10	R Wakley
royal blue, yellow hoop, dark blue sleeves, royal blue and ye	low quartered cap
? F614-1 RICH TYCOON (25) (D) (P Rich) P Rich 9 π 10	G Bradley
yellow, maroon sash, hooped sleeves, maroon	
3 DP42- JOBSAGOODUN (380) (D J W Ross) N Henderson 7 ft 8	. JR Asvarragh
yellow, lerge purple spots, sleeves and cap	·
503/15 THE BARGENAN (NZ) (15) (Mrs M Carrel D Gandolfo 10	114 SWymne
black and park (questered), striped sleeves, black	th cap
5 200453 TOM PINCH (9) (Baldings Ltd) G Balding 9 to 3	F Kentry (7)
brown, turquoise blue sleeves and cap	
5 44P-5 COUNTRYMAN (24) (H Parker) T George 7 10 9	
yellow, marrion chevron and sleeves, marrion and orange	quariered cap
 UO4-5F FORTYTWO DEE (18) (Trumph International) A Carroll 8 1 	D.S G Tarmay
red, white epaulets, haived bleeves, stoped o	ap
8 433244 FOLLOW DE CALL (22) (Champ Cholen Co) D McCam 8	108 . BHarding
whate, red sash, hooped sieeves and cap	•
0-5L90 TELLAPORKY (9) (R Simpson) R Simpson 9 10 5	Mr J Owen (7)
yellow, royal blue cross of lorraine, red sleeves, red cap, y	
10 040-06 EAU BENTE (28) (Group 1 Racing) H Collingridge 7 10 2	
red within several baked steeper mattern.	can

BETTING: 5-2 Rich Tycoon, 11-4 Clad Hopper, 6-1 Jobe: Pinch, Fortytwo Dee, 12-1 Talieporky, 14-1 others 1997. High Mood 7 10 8 S Wynne 11-4 (T George) 3 ran

- 10 declared -

FORM GUIDE

Clod Hopper: Former Ascot hurdles winner and beat rank outsiders Seabrook Lad and Blatant Outburst at Ludlow nine days ago. 6th higher mark today but still in with and balant commons at a second run in beat a free chance Rich Tycoon: Winning stayer over hurdles and overcame lack of a recent run to beat Rich Tycoon: Winning stayer over hurdles and overcame lack of a recent run to be

Jobsagoodum: The type to do better if over his problems. Hunted up Oliver's Se-cret at Leicester on only start last season and now in a weak race and from a stathe flat was some.

The Burgerman: Won over hundles on faster ground at Newton Abbot on reappearance and reverted to fences at Hereford to fill 5th to Raqib over a mp (3mt f) a shade.

Tom Pitter: Irish pomts winner and also showed ability over hundles. Looks the type to come on considerably for his 3rd to Fourth In Line at Taunton (2m3f). Countryman: Stiff task on chasing debut when beaten a distance behind Distant Echo at Chepstow Can do better in this poor handicap and ability was shown in his Fortytwo Dee: Beaten when falling three out in Zaggy Lanes race at Newton Abbot

and may also struggle in this Follow De Call: Fast-ground 2nd to Bluagale at Ludlow in October but failed off in Follow De Call: Fast-grown on a readyer a same the mud at Bangor last time (4th of 6 to Tremaint)
Tellaporky: Without a win from 20 starts and unlikely to have a change of fortune today after the latest tailed off effort behind Name Of Our Father at Luccow
Eau Benite: Plater over hurdles and beaten some way when 6th to No More Has-

VERDICT: Clod Hopper and Rich Tycoon are less time-out wirms considered again in this seemingly weaker grade. But the less exposed COUNTRYMAN has promised to do well over tences and this could be his day after a warm up behind Distant Echo at Chepstow. Jobsagoodur is another open to Improvement and he wouldn't be a surprise winner from the in-form Nicky Henderson vard.

(B) £7,500 added 2m 4f 110yds Penaity Value £5,022

٠	5-3621	velicus bizoli epaulets	الكتار بي
2	/1132-	EASY FEELIN (343) (D) (M P Buskes Family Settlement) 7 Easterby 6 11 10 1	L Wye
		emerald green and white diamonds, chevrons on sleeves	
3	222531	POLAR PROSPECT (14) (C) (At 8 Mrs D Last/B Yales) P Hobbs fin 9 G 1 red and emergid green diamonds:	ome
,	24242	TAUFAN BOY (22) (D) (BF) (Supreme Team) G Satting 5 to 10 F Ker	sian 7
•	4EE	yellow and red check, yellow cap	шуц
5	104-72	PEALINGS (63) (D) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 6 10 2	الفحد
6	12F2-2		Leating
7	62112-	SUNRISE SPECIAL (228) (F.A. Landogan) P. Roctord 5 10 0 . S. Bu	поцој
		royal blue, red diamond, white sleeves, royal blue armiets and cap	
		- 7 declared -	
		to any To a to allow a control of the Control of th	

Minemum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Surprise Special 8s; 13tb. BETTING: 5-2 L'Opera, 3-P Peder Prospect, 7-2 Easy Feelin, 11-2 Taufan Boy, 7-1 Harlequin Cho-rus, 13-1 Pedelinga, 25-1 Suriries Special 1997. Red Bazer 6 t2 0 J Cultoty 4-1 (Mas H Knight) 6 ran

FORM GUIDE

L'Opera: Beat only two rivals (Harlequin Chorus 2nd) at Warwick in slowly run after last time. Reised just 3lb but this looks a prugher race.

Easy Feether Fine efforts in defeat against Lord Jim at both Cheltenham and Sandown after wins over today's trip at Worcester Remains in the same ownership but hos joined Tim Easterby from David Nicholson. Fine chance if fully tuned up.

Potar Prospect: Tried over an extra half-mae after beating Serenus in the competitive William Hill Hurde at Sandown. Rassed 7lb but a hardy and consistent sort who will take the heaton.

will take the beating 'Burtan Boy: Progressive and followed a cheeky win from Estate Agent at Ascot with a fine 2nd to Bramblehill Duke under a penalty at Newbury, 6tb higher mark here but open to further improvement and will stay every yard in the ground lings: First attempt since mid-October and basically a test-ground performer so

Pealings: First attempt since multi-nations and reasoning a law season. Beal-any rain would hinder his chance Harlequin Chorus: Won novices at Warwick and Market Rasen last season. Beal-en 6-lengths by L'Opera at Warwick on reappearance and now 3lb better off Survise Special: Dual womer at Exeter in April but didn't look too keen when col-lared by Harry on the same course the following month. Stiff task on reappearance

Deadline has Thorpe's back to wall

told that he must play in the Sharjah Trophy in early April if he is to be considered as a serious candidate for the World Cup finals in England next

David Graveney, the England chairman of selectors, stressed that the Surrey lefthander, who is recuperating in England, has been set the deadline to prove his fitness fol-

BY MYLES HODGSON

ended his involvement in the Ashes tour before the third Test. Thorpe has also been ruled out of the limited-overs triangular series next month involving England, the hosts Australia and Sri Lanka.

A back injury also forced lowing the back problem that Thorpe out of the final two

umphant home series against South Africa, in addition to the one-off Test with Sri Lanka at

The Oval. We are hoping that we will be having some good news about Graham over the next couple of months because he is a loss to England at both Test and one-day cricket." Graveney said. "In one-day cricket, especially, I believe we have missed in the last year the way

matches of the summer's tri- he is able to knock the ball ing days and then we will go around in the middle of the innings and make life difficult for

the bowlers. "He is a key player – but he appreciates that he would have to go to the Sharjah Cup in order to be a valid selection for the World Cup. He has only just come back home and at present is getting over the disappointment of not being involved in Australia. A specialist will be looking at his back in the comfrom there." England fly out to Sharjah on

29 March and, after warm-up matches, open the competition proper against India on 7 April Warren Hegg, England's sofar frustrated reserve wicketkeeper, has dismissed claims that his captain, Alec Stewart, is struggling to cope with the triple workload of leading the

side, being a front-line batsman

and keeping wicket.

er has come increasingly into focus in the last few weeks as Stewart struggled to make an impression with the bat - his unbeaten 63 on the final day of the third Test in Adelaide was only the second time he had reached double figures in six

Hegg's role as reserve keep-

That uncertainty was heightened by Stewart's surprise omission from the start of today's four-day match in Ho-

Ashes innings.

bart against an Australian XI featuring nine Test players. He is being rested in advance of the back-to-back Tests in Melbourne and Sydney.

But as much as the Lancashire player might cherish the opportunity to replace Stewart behind the stumps in either of the final two Tests, Hegg admits that a return to form by Stewart would be the best Christmas present England could hope for as they at-

tempt to salvage some pride from a series which can no longer be won.

"A lot of people have speculated that it has been too much for him, but I know Stewie, and he is a tough character,' Hegg said. "Maybe it has affected him and maybe it is a big ask to do all three jobs. Who knows if that is the reason why we're two down in the series. but there are other factors in-

Warne likely to miss rest of Ashes series

SHANE WARNE is almost certain to miss the final two Tests of the Ashes series despite recovering from his shoulder injury, ac-cording to Allan Border, who is now an Australian team selector. Border said yesterday that

Warne was improving steadily but had yet to find his best form. "He's probably just a few weeks from bowling somewhere near his best, so that will count him out of the test se-

ries," Border said. "It would have been nice for him to make his big entrance at the MCG for the fairy-tale comeback, but it doesn't look like it's going to happen."

Border said any pressure on Warne to make a hasty return had been lifted after Australia retained the Ashes by winning the third Test in Adelaide. Border also said the selectors were lucky to have such a creditable replacement in the leg-spinner Stuart MacGill.

Surgery on Warne's shoulder has prevented him playing Test cricket since the third match against India in March.

He returned to first-class cricket last month and will play for Victoria against New South Wales in a Sheffield Shield match starting at the Sydney Cricket Ground today. MacGill, who plays for New

South Wales, withdrew from that match yesterday to rest a hamstring injury, but is certain to be ready for the fourth Test. It had been hoped that Warne would be fit enough to make his Test return in the

fourth Test at the MCG, starting on Boxing Day. If he misses that match, he is almost certain to miss the fifth and final Test which begins in Sydney on 2 January Thick fog again made play im-

possible on the second day of the third and final Test between Pakistan and Zimbabwe at Faisalahad yesterday. The tourists lead the series 1-0, having won the first Test in Peshawar. Play was also abandoned on

the first day of the first Test between New Zealand and India at Carisbrook yesterday after bad light and persistent drizzle.

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Northamptonshire sign up Hayden

THE AUSTRALIAN batsman Matthew Hayden has signed as Northamptonshire's overseas player for next year, and will also captain the county.

The 27-year-old left-hander from Queensland has agreed a a really good fist of it for two-year playing contract and Northants. succeeds Kevin Curran as captain with wicketkeeper David Ripley as his deputy.

Hayden, who made the last of his seven Test appearances for Australia in South Africa nearly two years ago, had a successful season on the County

circuit with Hampshire in 1997. He scored 2,426 runs in all competitions, including 1,438 in the Championship with four

centuries.

Speaking from his home in Brisbane, Hayden said: "I'm very excited about this. I enjoyed my summer with Hampshire and I just hope I can make

"Obviously there's a whole new set-up at the club, with my appointment a part of that, and I'm looking forward to meeting up with all the players when I arrive in April."

Ripley, who made his debut for Northants in 1984, becomes the club's first officially appointed vice-captain since Ala Fordham in 1996.



James Fisher and Traxdata Duenna tackle an obstacle in the Perton Signs Holly Pairs Relay at Olympia yesterday

Bourdy enjoys his champagne moment

HUBERT BOURDY, a member of the winning French team at the World Equestrian Games in By GENEVIEVE MURPHY 1990. jumped a swift clear at Olympia round to win yesterday's Champagne Taittinger Christmas on Traxdata Nustria, who was Cracker Stakes on the second day of the Olympia Show Jumping Championships.

In a cosmopolitan jump-off between five horses (not one of them ridden by a British rider). Bourdy rode the nine-year-old mare Medline Van't Paradijs to when striking his near foreleg defeat Ireland's Peter Charles with a hind toe at the Pavarot-

EQUESTRIANISM

runner-up in last year's Volvo World Cup qualifier here but has had most of this year off.

Nustria, who is still only eight, had a few months' rest at the start of this year but sustained a serious over-reach

"What say we duck

ti Horse Show in June. The in- in a time that was the fastest by jury required surgery and an- 2.64sec. other long lay- off.

His polished performance yesterday left Charles ahead of Dutchman Jos Lansink on Nissan Zandor and Ludger Beerbaum (the European champion from Germany) on Champion de Lys. Beerbaum seemed already in possession of the top prize as he headed to the last jump-off fence on the nimble eight-year-old grey stallion, only to have the last rail down

On Thursday night Champito give Beerbaum victory in the P&O Christmas Tree Challenge, thwarting John Whitaker who looked on course to secure the second leg of an opening day double until the galloping German relegated him to runner-up.

Beerbaum has ridden the French-bred Champion de Lys for 16 months and achieved sig-

lion (notably in the derbies at fore ride him in today's major Hamburg and Monterrey) be- contest which, surprisingly, on de Lys left the fences intact fore coming to Olympia. On Whitaker has never yet won. Thursday night he defeated a splendid round from John Whitaker and 18-year- old Virtual Village Welham, who had been the Yorkshireman's probable mount for today's Traxdata

World Cup qualifier. Whitaker, however, decided that 19-year-old Grannusch. with whom he won on Thursday, is feeling marginally better

nificant victories with the stal- than Welham and he will there-OLYMPIA INTERNATIONAL SECUR JUMPIA INTERNATIONAL SECUR JUMPIA SECURITY OF CHIEF CHIEF CONTROL OF CONTROL OF CHIEF CHIEF

League in

cast-off **Bullets**

control of

BASKETBALL BY RICHARD TAYLOR

THE BASKETBALL League has taken control of Birmingham Bullets following the decision by the club's owner, Harry Wrublewski, to return to Australia and the breakdown of takeover talks with the Nottingham-based Alladin Group.

The League's chief executive, Mike Smith, emphasised there is no threat to the existence of one of the Budweiser League's best-supported and most financially secure clubs: "The Birmingham franchise is important to the League and we are committed to running it for however long it takes to find new owners. There is no pressure or timescale.

"Coach Mike Finger and all of the backroom staff stay in place for the day-to-day running of the club and we will oversee the operation for them.'

The recent death of his mother and an incident in which he was beaten up outside a restaurant – something he has never fully recovered from emotionally or physically – are believed to have influenced Wrublewski's decision to return to Australia with his fam-

at the NEC Arena hosts tomorrow's National Cup semi-finals as Newcastle Eagles play Greater London Leopards, and Sheffield Sharks take on the holders, Thames Valley Tigers.

League warns against creatine

THE RUGBY League is to warn its member clubs not to advise players to take the dietary supplement, creatine.

The substance, which is not on the banned list issued by the International Olympic Committee or the UK Sports Council, was revealed by a recent survey in The Independent to be in widespread use in the

"We have been in constant touch with the Sports Council about creatine," said the League's chief executive. Neil lumicliffe. "They have come back to us again this week and told us that it is OK, but we are going to contact our clubs to warn them to be very careful about recommending it to their

RUGBY LEAGUE BY DAVE HADFIELD

players. If it turns out, in years to come, that it has all sorts of side-effects, players could sue clubs which have encouraged them to take it." The League has also held

talks with the Players' Association about the substance. which is also widely used in other sports to combat fatigue. Italy's claim to the wild-card

place in the 2000 World Cup could be strengthened by an international Sevens tournament there next year. Twelve countries, including a Great Britain side, are to compete in the event in Padua in November.

Italy is one of the nations vying for the vacant 16th place in the World Cup, the draw for which is to be made before the World Nines in South Africa in

February.

Sheffield Eagles' Great Britain centre, Keith Senior, has agreed a new contract extension that will keep him with the club until after the 2001 sea-

Senior, who played in all three Tests against New Zealand this autumn, would be much sought after if he was on the market, but said yesterday that Sheffield's recruitment this winter had made him keen to stay at his only pro-

fessional club. "He is one of the game's top the country," said the Sheffield coach, John Kear. Either of the consortia which could take control of the struggling Doncaster club will be have to reapply for membership of the League.

centres and by the end of his

contract he will be the best in

"We are becoming increasingly concerned about the future of the club," said Tunnicliffe, "If there is a takeover, we will be exercising our rights under the by-laws by asking them to reapply."

Doncaster are included in the fixtures for next season, but the League will want evidence they can fulfill their programme before confirming their partic-

inside for a Hen? A perfect combination of

Gerg wins her first World Cup downhill THE OLYMPIC slalom champi-SKIING

on, Hilde Gerg of Germany, tamed a treacherous course to claim the first World Cup downhill win of her career in Veysonnaz, Switzerland, yesterday.

Gerg took the rock-hard 2,500 metre piste in 1min 41.13sec, giving Germany its first win of the season in the absence of the njured Olympic downbill champion, Katja Seizinger. The Swedish veteran Pernil-la Wiberg, who called the Piste

de l'Ours a "Kitzbühel for women" and said it was the most difficult she had ever raced on, took second in 1:41.55. Norway's Lasse Kjus won the second World Cup downhill of the men's season in Val Gar-

Cup champion was surprise fastest in the Val d'Isère downhill last Saturday and proved that was no fluke with a provisional winning time here of 2:02.18, nearly a second faster than anyone else.

Austria's Werner Franz was second in 2:03.09 and his compatriot Hermann Maier, overall World Cup champion, was third in 2:03.28 after starting from 31st position on a Saslong piste that has always favoured the

Kius is the first Norwegian to win in Val Gardena since Atle Skaardal in 1990 and his winning margin of 0.91 sec was the widest since William Besse

back from shadows SNOOKER'S FORGOTTEN man

Alan McManus won a name for himself once more in the semifinals of the Irish Open in Dublin late on Thursday. It has been two years since the 27-year-old Scot survived

the last four of a ranking tournament. But a 5-3 success over countryman Billy Snaddon, the world number 32, bridged that gap for the gritty Glaswegian. "Twe been lacking in confidence," admits McManus, whose early wins at the National Basketball Arena came at the expense of in-form Dave Harold - the UK and Grand

Prix semi-finalist - and Welshman Paul Davies. "At the UK I lost to a kid I'd never even seen before [Michael Holt], yet against Dave it was a tough game I could easily have lost but I ended up winning." said the

now I'm getting used to the changes," said McManus, whose cue now has a new fer-rule and a joint in the butt.

Malta's Tony Drago who came back from 4-2 down to win 5-4 against world number two Stephen Hendry. "Tony has always possessed loads of talent but now he's starting to put matches away against the top

McManus comes

SNOOKER

1996 Thailand Open Champion. "I had several alterations made to my cue during the summer and I'd be lying if I said it hasn't affected me. It's only

Opposing McManus will be players," added McManus.

ily after seven years in England.

Birmingham's home venue

smoothness and strength, with

a subtle blend of flavours.

A most

Brewed by Morland of Abingdon, Est'd, 1711,

www.oldspeckledhen.co.uk





The former overall World

dena, Italy, yesterday.



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ullets

How the

FA Cup

stopped

our rise

FAN'S EYE

VIEW

READING BY BRIAN CODLING

GENERATIONS OF football fans have been brought up on the magic of the FA Cup. Young-

sters dream of scoring at Wem-

bley, while their fathers talk of

the giant-killings of yestervear.

inary round hope to make it to

the first round proper and play

against a real League side. As

winter deepens, the villagers

give way to the semi-profes-

sionals, keen to impress anyone

who might ask them to sign for

As the qualifying rounds

progress, players who rely on

the game to pay their mort-

gages develop loftier aims - to

reach the third round and meet

Manchester United. But there

For teams trying to win pro-

motion or avoid relegation, the

FA Cup can be just a midwinter

slog. The magic fades quickly

when your only decent striker

is stretchered off, the opposing team are kicking as many

lumps as possible out of your

midfielders, and the next round

promises another away game at

another unglamorous ground.

gled with a small squad in the

First Division. The magic of the

Cup for us involved scraping

through against Cheltenham

and Cardiff. both ties needing

replays, before going out to

Sheffield United in the dying

Added to this was a Coca-

Cola Cup run lasting into Jan-

uary, which physically drained

the players. The result was a

disastrous slump, which sent us

from 14th in the table in Janu-

ary to 24th a few months later.

We finished bottom of the divi-

sion and were relegated, just in

time to celebrate the opening

of our new all-seater 25,000 ca-

big sponsorship) for games

Instead of big crowds (and

pacity Madejski Stadium.

minutes of the fifth round.

Last season Reading strug-

a Premiership club.

is also a downside.

Village teams in the prelim-

Vall Di Canio Jeaves Wilson in dark

PAOLO DI CANIO faces an uncertain future after failing to report back to Hillsborough. Sheffield Wednesday's wayward Italian remains absent without leave and their manager, Danny Wilson, says he does not know when he is likely to return.

Di Canio was due to report back last week after a short spell in his homeland. But Wednesday received a doctor's certificate claiming he was unfit to travel. and all efforts to pinpoint his whereabouts in Italy have failed.

"We're unable to contact him versonally and it's a very frus-Prating time for everybody concerned," Wilson said.

Di Canio, who is nearing the end of an 11-match ban, will be free to return to the Wednesday line-up in the Boxing Day game against Leicester City. But Wilson could now be forced to abandon any hopes of including the former Milan forward in his

"I'm disappointed and I feel sorry for the chairman because he's bent over backwards for him." Wilson said. "We've shown tremendous loyalty and patience to Paolo over the things that have happened in the last few months. I don't think that's been reciprocated."

Di Canio pushed the referee

Paul Alcock to the ground after being sent off in a game against Arsenal in September, for which he was given an eight-match suspension on top of the automatic three-match ban for the red-card offence. He was also fined £10,000. He has since been fined for being absent, and with other costs, it is estimated that the escapade so far has cost nearly £100.000.

Wilson believes the one per-

countryman, Benito Carbone. "Beni's really on top of his game at the moment," Wilson said. "He's doing fantastically well and maybe that's because Paolo is not bere."

FOOTBALL

BY ALAN NEXON

The Italian football federation is threatening to take action against Sampdoria if David Platt either takes a coaching session or gives instructions to his new team on the pitch.

The row has blown up after opposition to the former England captain's appointment from the Italian coaches' association, because Platt does not hold the necessary Uefa coaching qualifications to manage a team in Serie A. Sampdoria have attempted to circumvent the rules by appointing Platt as "supervisor," with 59-year-old Giorgio

Veneri having the title of coach. Southampton are having talks with the Peruvian striker Waldir Perez about a record £2.5m deal. Perez, who plays for Alianza Lima, flew in to meet the Saints manager, David Jones, vesterday and will watch today's game against Wimbledon before contract talks.

Because Perez has a Spanish passport he will not need to apply for a work permit and could go straight into the Southampton side for the festive rogramme.

The Aston Villa manager "John Gregory, said yesterday that he plans to buy an experienced goalkeeper as soon as possible as Mark Bosnich needs surgery which will keep him out of action for at least eight weeks.

The Australian international has missed Villa's last 12 matches, and Gregory said: "It's a major blow to us and our hopes of winning the Premier League title. Mark needs surgery to tighten up the shoulder joint. But who may have benefited he's been assured by the spe-

"However, it means I'm going to have to try and sign another experienced goalkeeper as quickly as possible and that might mean going abroad."



Chelsea's Dennis Wise (left) and Gianluca Vialli are on their toes during final preparations for today's home derby against Tottenham

Smith wary of Rovers' bite

THE WEST Bromwich Albion manager, Denis Smith, has warned his steadily improving side that they must be wary of Tranmere Rovers' impressive away form ahead of their meeting at The Hawthorns today.

The Baggies registered an impressive 3-0 victory at Huddersfield last week, which included a 24th goal of the season for their in-form striker. Lee Hughes.

Tranmere are languishing in the bottom half of the table, but Smith is determined not to the need for the Bantams to renorm Di Canio's absence is his cialist that he should make a take the Merseysiders for granted. "If you look at their away record, they have only been beaten twice on their League travels so far this season." he said.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

Gary Rowett, feels his side's

BY DAVID ANDERSON

best hope of causing an upset against Sunderland at St Andrew's, is to take the game to the runaway League leaders. "It's no good sitting back against them; we've got to make them uncomfortable," he said. Bradford City's captain, Stu-

art McCall, has emphasised produce their fine away form at Valley Parade if they are to maintain their promotion push.

City, who have won five away matches, entertain Wolves and McCall said: "We're delighted The Birmingham defender, to have won five away games,

but we must make the most of our home matches." Third-placed Watford travel to

Grimsby on the back of a 10match unbeaten run and the Mariners' assistant manager, John Cockerill, admitted: "We know we are in for a hard game." Gary Megson, the Stockport

County manager, is delighted to have the on-loan Chelsea midfielder, Paul Hughes, who has played 20 first-team games for the Blues, available to make his debut against troubled Oxford United at Edgeley Park.

Bolton's manager, Colin Todd, does not reckon Portsmouth's John Aloisi, to Coventry will im- the Terriers. "I'm hoping he prove his side's chances of vic- catches flu." Gradi joked. tory that much. "Whoever comes in to replace him will be Warnock, is upbeat about his gation plight.

trying twice as hard to keep themselves in the frame," Todd reasoned. Luke Nightingale, 17, is likely to take Aloisi's place at the Reebok Stadium. The Huddersfield manager,

Peter Jackson, has expressed frustration over his side's erratic performances ahead of their match with the bottomclub, Crewe, at Gresty Road. "There is no consistency from the team," he complained. "One match we turn it on and the next we are rubbish."

Gradi, is worried about the threat of his former player,

at Vale Park. "Vale are hard at home, but have had a lean time since selling Gareth Ainsworth,' he said. Vale have lost seven of their last eight games and manager John Rudge admitted: "We're like a steamroller going downhill at the moment.

side's chances against Port Vale

Mick Turner must wait to see if he regains his place in the Barnsley attack against Swindon at Oakwell despite scoring the winner at Ipswich last week. Selhurst Park witnesses the

Crewe's manager, Dario clash of the former Tottenham managers as Gerry Francis's forced sale of their top scorer, Rob Edwards, who is now with Terry Venables' Crystal Palace. Bristol City will be hoping to

take something from their visit The Bury manager, Neil to Norwich to ease their rele-

Mauricio Ganz, Rierhoff's

Reading have struggled against Wrexham and Wigan. Last year we weren't going to win the FA Cup, but it is just pos-

sible that without injury-inducing matches in the depths of winter we might have avoided the drop. The wonderful new stadium is more than half empty. The town's belief in, and financial input into, its football club is on hold. Reading FC is crying out lems imposing his 3-4-3 formafor real success. tion on George Weah and

There is one bright spark, however, on the Berkshire skyline. As you look down the fixture list for this season's FA Cup third round you won't find Reading's name mentioned. We were knocked out back in

November in the first round. So no distractions this year. No Cup runs. Just promotion would be nice.

Leave the magic of the Cup to the young and the old. We want more than to gaze at the table where the big clubs feast. we want to join them.

Celtic reject Dalglish takeover

C LAST night rejected the proposals of the consortium led by their former player Kenny Dalglish and the rock singer Jim Kerr, insisting the expression of interest was not "in the best interests" of the

At a news conference called at short notice, Celtic's vicechairman, Brian Quinn, and managing director Fergus Mc-Cann stressed the Celtic board were united in their stance on the projected takeover, emphasising that what was mootby the consortium was below the club's market value.

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL

BY SIMON BUCKLAND

"We acknowledge the consortium's expression of interest in the company," Quinn said. We have considered the consortium's proposals and, after discussion with our advisors, are unanimous in our view that this approach is not in the best interests of Celtic, its supporters and shareholders

"Celtic is much more than a business," Quinn added. "The Celtic board has always been mindful of the need to reconcile ers with its wider role of representing the Celtic community.

"Fergus McCann's plans of enhancing the participation of ordinary Celtic supporters in tain that balance. Turning to the proposals themselves, the board believes that they do not satisfy the criteria against which the board would assess this approach and accordingly they do not represent fair value to the Celtic shareholders."

Meanwhile, the Celtic midfielder, Vidar Riseth, has complained about being played out this."

its responsibility to sharehold- of position by the club's head coach, Dr. Jozef Venglos.

The Norwegian international feels he has been denied a genuine opportunity to prove the value of his £1.5m fee when the club are intended to main- being used as a centre-half or a right winger. Riseth views himself as a central or a leftsided midfielder and is becoming frustrated at being unable to impress the new Norway coach, Nils Johan Semb.

"It's not easy when you have to play out of position," Riseth said. "I feel I have not done my best for the club yet because of

SPORTING DIGEST

Platt facing problems ITALIAN LEAGUE

SAMPDORIA, WHO this week appointed David Platt as "supervisor" (he has no coaching qualification) in an attempt to arrest their slide towards the Serie A relegation zone, play host to Milan in tomorrow's live

game on Channel 4. Platt, whose appointment is the subject of official protest, faces a tough task at Sampdoria. They slid to 14th (of 18) in Serie A after a 5-2 larruping at Lazio last Sunday. However, despite selling Juan Sebastian Veron, the brilliant Argentinian playmaker, to Parma, the Genoan outfit still have, in Ariel

By IAN DAVIES

Ortega, the Argentine playmaker, a world-class matchwinner Samp will be without the suspended defender Alexandro Grandoni, while the strikers Vincenzo Montella and Zoran Hovicic are injured.

Milan have looked a better side this term since Alberto Zaccheroni, the man who inspired Udinese to rise above their station, joined them as coach, bringing Oliver Bierhoff, the German striker, with him.

strike partners, principally because both players covet Bierhoff's place as centre-forward. and have been reluctant to go wide and feed crosses to exploit the German's awesome aerial power. However, despite their personnel problems, Milan are second after beating Vicenza 1-0 last week. ITALIAN LEAGUE: Tomorrow's other

rames: Cagliari v Bologna, Empoli v Par-ma, Juventus v Salernirana, Lazio v Udi-nese, Perugia v Fiorentina, Piacenza v Bart, Vicenza v Venezia. Tomorrow pight: In-ternazionale v Roma.

Indoor game in the spotlight

HOCKEY'S SHORT indoor season gets under way this weekend with various Divisional Tournaments, followed by after Christmas, the DTZ Midland's invitation tournament and for the women the second year of their National Indoor League.

VOLLEYBALL MEN'S INTERNATIONAL (Kelvin Ha International Sports Arena): Scodar 0 England 3 (15-11, 15-9, 15-6).

NUMBER

The number of corpses found by Vicenza goalkeeper Pierluigi Brivio inside

a blood-spattered car in his garage on Thursday. A man had shot his hairdresser lover and then

problem is one of timing."

The popularity of the indoor

game, with the availability of so many excellent outdoor artificial facilities, has diminished over recent years and there is a fear that it may shortly be eliminated from the calendar. The good news is that Chris Spice, hockey's director of performance, is a strong supporter of the indoor game. The sad news is that because of the pressures on elite players, particularly over the coming years, most of them are

likely to be pulled out. "I welcome indoor hockey," Spice said yesterday. "It relates well to the outdoor game, is a good spectator sport and is very good promotionally. The

With this news it is good to hear of a club returning to the

BY BILL COLWILL Olympic gold medallist Imran Sherwani, will be competing in the DTZ Midland event for the first time for many years with

the aim of reaching the EHA finals night at Crystal Palace on Friday 5 February. Sherwani would be no stranger to bockey's night of the year, having appeared for

Slough and Stourport in the finals on a number of occasions. Dunton Engineering, a sole-

ly indoor club, made a big impact last year in the Premier East League and appear again today at Aldenham School with the nucleus of their squad coming from Southgate. In the same league much is

expected from Chelmsford who will feature several South Africans in their squad including Craig Carolan who was de-registered by Southgate last week n Hockey's new chief executive, who had been expected to be indoor arena with new vigour. named this week, will now be Leek, who will be led by the announced in the New Year.

Whitehead impresses in heats

SWIMMING

ADAM WHITEHEAD gave an impressive display in the heats the British Short Course Championships in Glasgow yesterday. The Coventry swimmer, who

will be aiming for Andrei Korneev's 200 metres breaststroke crown tomorrow, broke his lifetime best in the 100m. The 18year-old, who won the European 200m title last Sunday, clocked 1min 0.98sec, just over a second outside the British record.

Michelle de Bruin's appeal against a four-year ban for drug use will not be heard until next year, the Court of Arbitration for Sport said yesterday. A decision was expected this month but the four-month time limit to hear the appeal will be extended because of the difficulty in bringing parties together.

The Amateur Swimming Federation of Great Britain is to recommend to the associations of Sigland, Scotland and Wales Lata single governing body be created after the 2000 Olympics.

ATHLETICS

Max Jones was yesterday confirmed as performance director of UK Artiletics, the sport's governing body in Britain. The appointment of the 51-year-old former chief British team coach follows the installation of David Moorcroft as chief executive.

BASKETBALL

BASKETBALL
THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Mea's EsroLeague Group & Vitoria (Sp) 80 Saratov (Rus) 60, Varses (h) 92 Fenerbahce (Iur)
78, Pau Orchez (Fr) 56 Zalgiris Kaunas (Lith)
66 Group B: Cruena Zezda Belgrade
(Vug) 88 Mannesa (Sp) 60, Chona Zagreb
(Lora) 78 Maccabi lei Aufv (Isr) 60, Group
C: KK Zadar (Croa) 79 Alba Berlin (Ger) 82:
Ulkerspor (Iur) 49 Kinder Bologna (It) 60,
Olymplakos (Gr) 74 CSKA Moscow (Rus) 76
Group D: Samara (Rus) 84 PACK Salonika
(Gr) 77, Villeurbanne (Fr) 77 Olimpija Ljubijana (Sloven) 68, Real Madrid (Sp) 65 Teamsystem Bologna (It) 69

Raffaele Pagnozzi, the secretary-gen-eral of the Italian Olympic Com-mittee, yesterday said that he had received official notification that he

Anatoly Byshovets, the former Dynamo kiev striker who played 40 times for the Soviet Union, was sacked as the Russia national team coach yesterday after losing all six matches in less than five months in charge. less than five months in charge.
Ferencyaros, the Hungarlan First Division club, have sacked their coach.
Tibor Nyilasi. Nyilasi, a former Hungarlan international, was fired after a meeting of the club's council, disappointed in the team's poor showing. Hungary's most popular and successful club currently lie seventh to their league.

The South African Emie Els has been The South African Ernie Els has been awarded life membership of the European Tour in recognition of his two US Open victories and three successive wins in the World Match Play Championship. He beat Britain's Colin Montgomerie and Loren Roberts from America in a play-off to take the US Open at Oakmont in 1994 then defeated Montgomerie by one shot to take the title at Congressional three wears later. Fls. who

was under investigation in a doping probe but that it concerned cycling, not football as was first believed. FOOTBALL

in their league.

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Poothis
League Premier Division: Sunderland 2
Man Utd 0. The Times FA Youth Cup Secpod-round reptay: Postponed: Romford
v Bishop's Stortford.

gressional three years later. Els. who has won 25 professional events worldwide including four European Tour titles, sald: "I am thrilled to be

Tour titles, sald: "I am thrilled to be given this accolade, especially as it comes from my peers.

COOLUM CLASSIC (Brisbane, Atts) Leading second-round scores (Atts decess statud): 132 C Spence 65 67. 136 P Moloney 68 68, 140 C Parry 72 68: 5 Laycok 71 69. 141 J Moseley 73 68: M Cain 70 71. 142 A Solz 72 70: G Coles 70 72: M Jonzon (Swe) 70 72: R Wills 70 72. 143 A Painter 71 72: G Kenny 75 68: J Senden 71 72: M Petersen 71 72: T Carolan 72 71. 145 D Ecob 74 71: D Hill 72 73: G Dodd 73 72; M Goggin 74 71: N O'Hem 70 75: S Cornan 73 72 (round incomplete after rain interrupted play with 56 players on course).

ICE HOCKEY

There were emotional scenes at Sheffield Arena on Thursday night as the debt-ridden Steelers took to the ice for what could prove to be their last-ever game. A crowd of around 7,000, including supporters from Bracknell, Cardiff, Manchester and Ayr, watched the South Yorkshire team, who are around £400,000 in debt, beat Nottingham Panthers 7-4. Apollo Management, the own-ers of the Arena, reduced the Steeler's rent for the game and have pledged to do the same for the home fixture with Manchester on Boxing

Day, MHL: Boston 5 Ortawa 2: Philadelphia 3 Calgary 3 (ct): St Louis 3 Phoenix 2; Wash-ington 3 Chicago 1; Vancouver 2 Colorado 1: New York Islanders 5 Los Angeles 4 (ct): Say Iosa 3 Nactwiller

ATLANTIC DIVISION

WESTERN CONFERENCE CENTRAL DIVISION
1 17 10 1 92 69 35
2 10 10 7 69 67 27
3 10 10 3 64 89 23
4 10 10 3 64 89 23
5 10 10 14 69100 22

SKIIN G

MEN'S ALPINE WORLD CUP (Val
Gardena, It) Leading downbill overall standings: 1 L Kjus (Nov) 200pts: 2
L Cartaneo (It) 89: 3 W Franz (Aut) 80:
A Groenvold (Nar) 66: =5 E Selecto (It)
60; H Maier (Aut) 60: 7 P Jaerbyn (Swe)
54: =8 K Ghedina (It) 50: A Deneriaz (F1)
50; 13 P Vitalini (It) 47: 11 K Andre
Aamodt (Nov) 45: 12 A Schifferer (Aut)
42: =13 K Werr (Can) 40: P Runggaldler
(It) 40: 15 A Bresavsek (Sloven) 38: 16
B Stemmile (Can) 37: 17 C Fleischer (US)
36: 18 H Knauss (Aut) 32: 19 K Shertsen (Nor) 30: 201L Cretier (F1) 28. Overall standings: 1 Kjus 413pts: 2 5
Eborharts (Aut) 383: 3 C Mayer (Aut) 342:
4 Maier 340: 5 Aamodt 324: 6 T Stangassinger (Aut) 216: 7 F Christian Jagge
(Nor) 186; 8 P Bourgeat (Fr) 176: 9

SKIING

Knauss 157: 10 J Kosir (Sloven) 146: 11
S Amiez (Fr) 142: 12 Schilferer 122: 13
M Eberte (Ger) 120: 14 Catsaneo 117: 15
M Von Gruenigen (Swit) 101; 18 Stainsen
89: 19 S Locher (Swit) 80: 20 Rocca 83.
WOMEN'S ALPINE WORLD CUP
(Maysomaz, Swit) Leading overall standings: 1 A Meissnitzer (Aut) 675pts: 2 M Erd (Ger) 398: 3 R Goetschi (Aut) 362; 4 PWiberg (Swe) 330: 5 R Goetschi (Aut) 362; 4 PWiberg (Swe) 330: 5 R Goetschi (Aut) 467; 14 A Paerson (Swe) 184: C Ray-Beller (Swit) 184: 13 D Compagnoni (It) 189: w11 A Paerson (Swe) 184: C Ray-Beller (Swit) 184: 13 D Compagnoni (It) 169: 14 M Dorfmeister (Aut) 184: 15 U Hrovat (Sloven) 145: 16 C Mitterwaliner (Aut) 144: 17 S Schuster (Aut) 144: 17 S Schuster (Aut) 144: 17 S Schuster (Aut) 144: 18 Segger (Aut) 130: 19 B Obermoser (Aut) 144: 17 S Schuster (Aut) 146: 2 W Wiberg (Swe) 1:41.55: 3 B Perez (It) 1:41.63: 4 A Meissnitzer (Aut) 1492: 5 R Calagnoud (Fr) 1:42.06: 6 F Masnada [Fr] 1:42.20: 7 R Haeusl (Ger) 1:42.30: 8 T Girnle (Nor) 1:42.87: 13 I Kostner (It) 1:42.95: 14 R Goetschi (Aut) 1:43.24: 15 P Bassis (It) 1:43.40: 16 M Erd (Ger) 1:42.38: 17 C Mondillet (Fr) 1:42.76: 12 I Helen Marken (Nor) 1:42.87: 13 I Kostner (It) 1:42.95: 14 R Goetschi (Aut) 1:43.52: 8 S Bracun (Soven) 1:43.81: 19 M Gerety (US) 1:43.94: 20 B Obermoser (Aut) 1:44.10 Leading downhill overall standings: 1 Goetschi 218: 2 Kostner 180: 3 Messnitzer 155: 4 Hide Gerg 149: 5 Haeusl 132: 6 Dorfmeister (Aut) 1:67 (Zaragnoud 106: 8 Erti 101: 9 T Gimle (Nor) 92; 10 Wiberg 80: 11 F Masnada (Fr) 80: 12 Obermoser 72: 13 I Helen Marken (Nor) 64: 14 B Perez (It) 60: 15 C Monillet (Fr) 1:53: 16 P Bassis (It) 52: =17 M Gerety (US) 46; K Basser (Aut) 46: 19 Schuster 44: 20 5 Berthod (Swit) 41. Nations of the Marken (Nor) 64: 14 B Perez (It) 60: 15 C Monillet (Fr) 53: 16 P Bassis (It) 52: =17 M Gerety (US) 46; K Basser (Aut) 46: 19 Schuster 44: 20 5 Berthod (Swit) 41. Nations 64: 20 5 Berthod (Swit) 41. Nat

RISH OPEN (Doblin) Quarter-finals (Eng unless stated): M Williams (Wal) bit N Doherty (Irl) 5-1: Drago bit S Hendry (Sco) 5-4: McManus bit B Snaddon (Sco) 5-3. J Parrott bit S Lee 5-2.

SNOOKER

TABLE TENNIS EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE (Not tingham) First Division: England Belgium 4. (Eng nomes first: A Holt bi (

TODAY'S

TENNIS
GIROBANK TOUR (Nottingham) Men's
quarter-finals: M Gregort (Slovak) bt 5
Amey (GB) 3-6 6-4 6-2: P Hand (GB) bt B Haran (GB) 6-1 6-4: N Weal (GB) bt T
Greenland (GB) 7-5 2-6 7-6, T Spinks (GB)
bt M Ellames (GB) 6-0 7-5. Semi-finals:
Hand bt Gregort 7-6 6-4: Weal bt Spinks
6-2 6-1. Women's quarter-finals: N
Warne-Holland (GB) bt K Eliott (GB) 63 6-2; L Perkins (GB) bt S Gregg (GB) 61 6-0; C Taylor (GB) bt N Egorova (Rus)
6-2 6-1; L Lurova (Rus) bt C Udofa (Nigeria)
6-1 6-0. Semi-finals: Warne-Holland
bt Perkins 7-5 6-4: Lurova bt Taylor 6-3
bt Perkins 7-5 6-4: Lurova bt Taylor 6-3

tt Perkins 7-5 6-4; Lutrova bt Taylor 6-3

himself, police said.

deristmas.

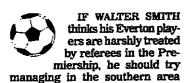


THE SWEEPER

BY CLIVE WHITE AND NICK HARRIS



Blasphemy rife in Christian League



Christian League.

Marshall Baron, the club secretary of Richmond St Mary's, recently suffered the humiliation of seeing his entire team sent off - for

swearing. Practising what one preaches has proved difficult for Baron, who was among those sent off minutes from time against Chessington Evangelical Church at Old Deer

"It was a complete farce" he said. "I admit I said Jesus Christ' and should have been sent off. I am not saying we were angels, but we object to the fact that the game was abandoned entirely and we were punished and Chessington were not - there was swearing on both

Apparently, industrial language was only the half of it, according to Baron, an altar server at Richmond Parish Church. He claimed that trouble flared when a Chessington player went unpunished after committing eight vicious fouls.

"One of my players warned the ref he would be held responsible if someone was seriously hurt by this player," said Baron, who left the field concussed and with a sore leg to go with his red card.

"Then a Chessington player asked one of my team what he knew about being a Christian. "He told him: 'sod off. I'm a

Roman Catholic'. Richmond also had another play-

er booked after the game had been abandoned, but at least they got one point out of five for sportsmanship; Chessington got four. The Richmond-based team, who

have all been friends since their schooldays at St Paul's and Westminster, also had a point docked. which they are now appealing As for Baron, he has resigned

from his position as League representative for the club.

"I have been playing in the League for 10 years and am held as an honest person. We are very sad that it all happened, and still feel very hard done by.

"The team, many of whom are my old friends, are not all Christians manager's office at Bramall Lane magazine's valuations.

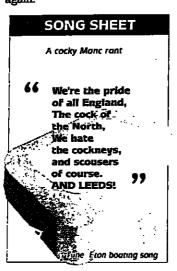
ceptable in a Christian League - but neither is dangerous tackling."

BEDLINGTON TERRI-ERS dipped out of the spotlight in more ways than one during the past seven days when their FA Vase third round tie against Mickleover Sport was abandoned, not once, but twice, because of floodlight

The Terriers, whose brave FA Cup run came to an end at Scunthorpe last Saturday week, looked light years ahead of the opposition when the lights failed last Saturday while they were leading

Their manager, Keith Perry, warned against complacency in the replayed tie at the Doctor Pit Welfare Ground on Wednesday and he was spot on. With 18 minutes to go, it was the turn of the Derbyshire side Mickleover to step out of the shadows and establish a threegoal lead. When they and everyone else were again plunged into dark-

The FA is now considering whether to allow Bedlington to go for a hat-trick by staging the game



STEVE BRUCE has endeared himself to Blades' supporters however well or badly his Sheffield United side fare this season in the First Division

promotion race.

IF WALTER SMITH and we realise swearing is not ac- are two photographs of Bruce in goalscoring mode for Manchester United in the game which some peoole feel secured them the Premiership title in 1992. The side on the receiving end of Bruce's brace was Sheffield Wednesday.

DAVID O'LEARY and Peter Ridsdale, the Leeds manager and chairman respectively, appeared to be on a collision course over the club's image if recent comments from the two are

anything to go by. At a welcome dinner for the new manager and his assistant Eddie Gray, Ridsdale told the gathering: "We have had a fairly interesting start to the season, with the odd change we didn't expect, but the great thing is that sexy football is no longer at Newcastle, it is here at

Leeds United!" A few days later O'Leary, commenting on the team's style of play, said: "I don't want any of this 20 or 30 passes going nowhere. What we want here is purposeful football, not this sexy football."



THE FOOTBALL Conference is emerging as one of the most important breeding grounds for the top marksmen of tomorrow, according to the latest

seems to know. Red rumour has it

that the makers wanted to include

a Goodison goal from this season, but eventually grew tired of waiting.

issue of Four Four Two. The January edition profiles "The Top Twenty Strikers Outside the Premiership", of which seven are graduates from the Conference coaching academy. But prospective buyers should not expect a bargain the magnificent seven would cost Pride of place on the wall of the a projected £10.3m according to the

AS YOU WERE



THE PRICE IS RIGHT



WITH ONLY the slightest assistance from the almighty two late equalisers and a missed penalty -

The Price Is Right roared back into profit with a draws treble last week. There are some tight Premiership games gagging for similar attention this week, while Nicolas Anelka could spearhead a "Desmond" (2-2) draw against Leeds tomorrow.

LIBERO WAGERS (10 £1 trebles with Stanley): Chelsea to

draw with Tottenham (12-5); Coventry to draw with Derby (9-4); Newcastle to draw with Leicester (12-5): Nottingham Forest to draw with Blackburn (12-5): Southampton to draw with Wimbledon (9-4).

Man United v Middlesbrough Correct score/first goal double: 2-1/ Sar Dwight Yorke (50p at 30-1, Stanley). Score: 1-1 (£1 at 11-2, William Hill).

THE SWEEPER'S STOMPING CERTAINTIES

West Ham v Everton Correct score/first goal double: 2-1/ John Harston (50p at 33-1, Stanley & Tote). SUNDAY SKY MATCH Arsenal v Leeds Score: 2-2 (£1 at 14-1, generally). First goal: Nicolas Anelka (£1 at 11 -2

SUNDAY C4 ITALIAN JOB

First goal: Oliver Bierhoff (£1 at 4-1, William Hill & Tote). MONDAY SKY MATCH Chariton v Aston Villa Score: 1-2 (£1 at 8-1, Stanley & Tote). First goal: Dion Dublin (£1 at 5-1, Tote).

> CURRENT KITTY: £134.06! TODAY'S BETS: £18.63 (inc. £1.63 tax).

trains.

ORIGINAL BANK: £100.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

BEST ATTACK in Europe. Manchester United, Roma? Wrong, it's Anorthosis Famagusta of Cyrpus. And the best defence - parsimonious Parma? Sorry, Parmalat boys, it's Hapoel Haifa of Israel.

BEST ATTACKS orthosis Famagusta (Cyprus)47 .

3 Litex Lovech (Bulgaria)
WORST ATTACKS
Goals Games Average
1 Ethaikos Piraeus (Greece)
2 Venezia (italy)0.38
3 Veria (Greece)0.38
4 Canakkale Dardaneispor (Turkey)8160.50
BEST DEFENCES

1 Hapoel Beit Sh'an (Israel) 2 Aris Limassol (Cyprus) ...

MYTEAM



MANCHESTER UNITED Actor and film director (Sliding Doors)

"Tm one of the few fans who comes from Manchester. We moved to London when I was very young but saw them at Old Trafford during the Sixties. It was my mum's her fault I missed out on the European Cup Final in 1968 when United beat Benfica 4-1 at Wembley. She applied for tickets but they were £9 and she thought they were too expensive and I didn't go. The best goal I've seen at Old Trafford was a Bestie goal against Sheffield Wednesday in 1970. He beat the whole team, stopped the ball on the line and tapped it in. I think my proudest moment was when Denis Law asked for my autograph for his wife."

IN T'NET

Found on the Web: The home page of the England 2006 World Cup bid If it's a balanced and unbiased appraisal of Eng-

land's bid to host the 2006 World Cup you're after, it's best to go elsewhere, but if you want to fiv the flag, read all about why England is the one and only country that really is fit to stage the cup, and get a blow by blow account of all the foreign junkets FA luminaries have been on in the course of duty. head here. Never have so many travelled so far, pressing so much flesh for so long in pursuit of a tournament that was promised to the Germans. By whom? The English FA, of course. http://www.fa2006.org/

SEEN BUT NOT BOUGHT

WHY WOULD anyone want to buy a nine carat gold Sheffield Wednesday stick pin? Especially when the pins - a choice of small Owls on pins or the word "Owls" on a pin or a club badge on a pin – start at £27.99 and can cost as much as £39.99. Why would anyone at all, even an Italian striker, want to own such an item? Why would he use such an item to stick into his referee toy? He would not, of course. And neither would any other sensible person.

THEY'RE NOT **ALL DENNIS** BERGKAMP

Unsung foreign legionnaires No 18 AMARA SIMBA: The Senegal-born French international striker will celebrate his 37th birthday next week as a player at Leyton Orient, the club he ioined for nothing in October. Simba's illustrious career has seen him play for, among others, Paris St Germain, Caen and Marseilles (where at one stage he partnered Eric Cantona). He played for 18 months in Mexico before joining the Os, for whom he has played eight games and scored two goals so far. Simba has played four times for France, including one substitute appearance against England, and has scored a total of two

international goals.



Fun and games in after-midnight sports marathon

I NEVER bothered to get my telly retuned to receive Channel 5 - no point, I thought, sniffily. So it was not until recently, when I invested in a new set, that I was able to enjoy its sports coverage. In fact, as the end of the year approaches, and brickbats and bouquets are dished out, my personal gong goes to C5 for their excellent and varied programming, which has been especially vigorous in its coverage

of American sport. Live And Dangerous, their after-midnight sports marathon, has been of a consistently high quality, and is probably why Channel 4's Under The Moon passed away unlamented this week. On Thursday, for example, LAD presenters Kevin Day and Mark Webster (slightly laddish but not overbearingly so) first conducted some intelligent conversation with Carlton Palmer (quiet at the back), then spoke to the author of a book about the history of refereeing, and to an odds-maker about the latest football betting (the 8-1 about Dynamo Kiev



ON TV



to win the European Cup being considerably inferior to the 14s secured by myself and a colleague - an optimistic bet, perhaps, though somewhat less so than my friend's flutter on QPR to win the First Division at 200-1). Later, there was a top-of-the-table Dutch game between Vitesse and Feyenoord, and later still (past my bedtime, any-way), action from the latter stages of the Brazilian championship between Santos and Cruzeiro. All very late, but then that's what videos are for

- NHL ice hockey and American football (the latter not to my taste, but it's good to have as a bastion against Sky). As I say, I fondly imagined my life was better without C5. And indeed, with the exceptions of the sport and Xena: Warrior Princess (for fetish fans everywhere) that's the case. But

they're two big exceptions. And so farewell to Under The Moon, that dire late-night farrage of crap chat and embarrassing set-ups. Co-presenter Danny Kelly seemed a nice enough bloke, but it became all too familiar an experience to flip channels briefly before going to bed to find him wide-eyed and vacant, all rabbits and headlights while he waited for a thought to enter his head. A succession of co-anchors provided little in the way of substance and a great deal in the way of mindless dross.

The programme's low point (at least, the Apart from the football from around the lowest point witnessed by this viewer,

world, there has been what must have been which might not be saying all that much) baseball's best ever season-much of it live was the occasion last year when they gave the former Greg Chappell as long as he liked to plug his "hair replacement sys-tem" – though I suspect it was not so much a question of product placement as of Kelly not being able to think of anything else to say and there being no post-pub morons clogging up the phone in lines with their a year of solid achievement. And rightly so lager-lout prejudices. Wednesday's programme, so a friend informed me, con-tained a fitting epitaph when one caller rang in to inform Kelly's colleague, Lisa Rogers, that his preferred mode of watching her was with the remote in one hand and, er, something else entirely in the other.

A few sour sorts have spent the past week carping about the gong given to Michael Owen's for being voted BBC Sports Personality of The Year. Unlike Iwan Thomas, Denise Lewis and the rest of the shortlist - and as the lad himself has reiterated tirelessly over the last couple of weeks - he's won nothing yet.

Except the hearts of the nation, and that's hands held out in front of him, almost in supwhat counts. The award has seldom been given for sporting success - indeed, it has consistently served to buttress that quin-tessentially British notion of glorious defeat. The Sportswriters' Association gave their awards last Monday to Thomas and Lewis, - that's precisely what the sportswriters

should be doling out awards for.
But public opinion is another matter entirely, and the Sports Personality of The Year award should be about precisely that: personality. The award is not about success so much as capturing the popular imagination - witness Paul Gascoigne's award in 1990, received largely on the back of his World Cup waterworks. Owen at least got his gong for football - at least, the five seconds or so it took him to score his tumultuous goal against Argentina.

In that moment, and as he subsequently raced towards the England end with his plication to God for allowing him to execute such a magnificent piece of artistry, the strange sculpture that passes for the BBC trophy became his personal property.

As for the rest of the Sports Review Of The Year (BBC1, Sunday), 'tis the season to be generous, so perhaps I should finish before I start. Perhaps it is a reflection of the BBC's deteriorating relationship with sport, but it was a curiously low-key affair

the audience looked glum, the interviews
were bland and perfunctory and the comic relief, provided as it was by the impressionist Kevin Connolly, was grimly unfunny though the impersonations themselves, as usual, were quite brilliant.

And finally... last week I wrote about the BBC's They Think It's All Over. Walker's would like me to point out that Gary Lineker is still under contract to them, and also that their crisps are not "fried in lard and chemicals". And my favourite flavour is: roast chicken...

Books for Christmas: Football's great attackers weave their magic across the spectrum from high art to low life

Honesty of Adams and Best hits spot

JUST AS televised football is best watched with a beer to hand, good books are traditionally accompanied with a mug of cocoa. This is something of a blessing when it comes to reading the year's two blockbusters.

While both Bestie, the authorised biography of George Best and Addicted, Tony Adams' ghosted autobiography, are good reads, neither hould be savoured over a pint. Alcoholism is at the heart of dams' book and a running thread through Best's.

Much of Adams' book is standard fare. A hard-hitting opening chapter is followed by a pacey run through his career from aspiring schoolboy to trophy-winning captain of the Arsenal. There is even the obligatory chapter selecting his "best of" XL What marks it out is that the opening chapter really does shock as it details his personal rock bottom, the moment he faced the reality that booze had taken over his life. Searingly honest, the book benefits from Adams' close relationship with his conscientious and understanding ghost, an Ridley

Freed from the constraints of writing in someone else's words, Joe Lovejoy's Bestie is a more complex book combining the necessary chronological run through Best's career with modern-day snap-shots of his current life. Best and a long line of former team-mates, ex-lovers and friends, have cooperated in full but the result is as severe on Best's faults as Adams is on himself. A tawdry ght in a Hereford bar, when a drunken Best's jealousy turns shows what Adams has escaped and Best probably never will. That his mother died an alcoholic underlines the tragic nature of his disease

Alcohol abuse also plays a prominent part in the year's most controversial book, Glenn Hoddle's My World Cup Story. which revealed something of Gascoigne's problem. In literary terms the book is poor. an inevitable result of its speed of completion and its concentration on hanalities. Many still feel it is not banal enough and. given that Hoddle is still in the job, they may be right. Even so, his occasional candour, though not in admitting any mistakes, made for some interesting moments and plenty of headlines and some good may come from his revelations about Gas-

A contrasting World Cup ary, about a very different Ampaign, is offered by Robbie

BY GLENN MOORE

Earle and Daniel Davies. Earle provides a perceptive view from the dressing-room but the real strength of One Love is Davies' depiction of Jamaica's passage to France. This includes Fitzroy Simpson's priceless description of a nervous first night in Kingston: "I had to put a chair up against the door"... "I'd been to Jamaica before but that time I went to civilisation". His Portsmouth team-mates' reaction to his and Paul Hall's involvement is also detailed: "How do you think they felt. we'd gone to Jamaica, they were fighting for survival in the middle of winter and watching Caribbean Uncovered [Sky's sex and sandfly-on-the-bar-

room wall programme]". The 1990 World Cup features in Bobby Robson's autobiography, but so extensive is the former England manager's career it only rates a few pages.

His fight with cancer opens the book, giving a sense of perspective to the rest.

Another manager with a passion for the game, Harry Redknapp, is authentically captured by Derek McGovern in an unusually candid and entertaining autobiography. He also had a brush with death and proceeds go to a cancer charity.

Harry Harris has combined with Ruud Gullit for a run through the Dutchman's career pre-Newcastle, while the similarly prolific Dave Bowler has produced a dry account of Danny Blanchflower's life and an absorbing one of Sir Alf Ramsey.

comes Ajax, Barcelona, Cruyff: the ABC of an Obstinate Maestro, taken from old interviews with the enigmatic Dutchman while David Elleray's Referee!, a self-written diary of his season, has interesting elements but will confirm the prejudice of those who believe referees are rampant egotists. Not the perfect Christmas present for Gordon Strachan.

Bestie: A Portrait of a Legend (Macmillan, £16.99) by loo Loveloy, Addicted (Colins Willow, £16.99) by lony Adams and lan Ridley, Glenn Hoddle: Mly 1998 World Cup Story (Andre Deutsch. £17.99) by Glenn Hoddle & David Davies: One Love: The story of Jamalca's Reggae Boyz and the 1998 World Cup (Andre Deutsch, £14.99) by Robbie Earle & Daniel Davies: Bobby Robson (Macmillan, £16.99) by Bobby Robson & Bob Harris: Harry Red-knapp (Collies Willow, £16.99) by Harry Red-knapp (Collies Willow, £16.99) by Harris: Denny Elanchflower: A Blography of a Visionary (Victor Gollanz, £16.99) by Dave Bowler, Williams & Liserything — a Blography of Sir Alfr Ramsey (Victor Gollanz, £16.99) by Dave Bowler, Alax, Barcelona, Cruyff: the ABC of an Obstinate Maestro (Bloomsbury, £16.99) by Fits Barend & Herk van Dor: Refereel: A Vear In the Life of David Elleray (Bloomsbury, £16.99) by David Fileray (Bloomsbury, £16.99) by Dav present for Gordon Strachan.



The 1970 Brazilians are given a richly evocative portrait by Garry Jenkins, who interviewed every player except for the still elusive Jairzinho

Booked: the world's best team

'I want to thank you for doing this.

I think it is history'

Cup-Winners' Cup a year later: conversation ranges from Hud-

saunas

year after man first walked on the moon, a satellite beamed something even more magical into the living rooms of the world - football from a different planet.

Some of the burgeoning number of books devoted to the game's back pages glorify the humdrum; others do scant jus-From the Netherlands tice to greatness. The Beautiful Team (Simon & Schuster, £15.99), wherein Garry Jenkins goes in search of the 1970 Brazilians, avoids both categories. Put simply, it is a richly evocative homage to the finest team of all time.

> The format adopted by Jenkins has a good track record, from Roger Kahn's classic about baseball's Brooklyn Dodgers, The Boys of Summer, to Martin Tyler's Boys of

Jenkins interviews all the World Cup-winning class of '70 (except Jairzinho, who proves as elusive as he did to Terry Cooper in Guadalajara, and Everaldo, who is dead! about the tournament the 4-1 final rout of Italy and how it affected their lives.

We meet Pele, one of the most famous individuals on the planet yet keenly aware of the collective nature of the triferee!: A Year In the Life of David eray (Bloomsbury, £16.99) by David umph. Then there is Carlos Al-ment. berto, captain and scorer of the

ONE MOMENTOUS summer, a By PHIL SHAW

last, definitive goal in the final, who now runs a soccer camp; Gerson, the tactician supreme, these days fighting sport's corner within his home-town council: and Felix, the eccentric keeper, who could smoke for Brazil and who now owns a

Most intriguing of all is inho's winner against England. swooped to his right. Lee umes. In Shanks For the Now a portly, grey-haired, semireclusive doctor of medicine and broadsheet football columnist, he is surprisingly self-critical, which merely adds to the fascination.

One can only echo the sentiments of the midfield enforcer, Clodoaldo, who tearfully tells Jenkins: "I want to thank you for doing this. I think it is his-Travelling around Brazil, tory." The author should now be commissioned to track down Brazil's 1998 finalists. They did, after all, go missing against France.

> The perfect 10 in that nearperfect side, Pele, once described the penalty as "a cowardly way to score". According to Clark Miller's history of the spot-kick, He Always Puts It To the Right (Victor Gollancz, £12.99), Francis Lee was unmoved by that argu-

> > One of many splendid stories

in a delightfully off-beat book chester City did so in 1969 and brimming with anecdotes.

analysis and trivia finds Lee playing for Manchester City in Sweden soon after converting 15 penalties in 1971-72. Waiting to take another, he was approached by the keeper, who explained his ambition to be the first to deny Lee from the 12-

"OK," said Franny, "I'll put it to your right and I won't hit crashed the ball into the oppo-

you score 15 penalties without

West Ham needed no set-

piece psychology to lift the FA

Cup in 1964 and the European

nor, indeed, did they require any

The latter fact is the starting

Scots. Irish or Welsh assis-

point for Brian Belton's The

First and Last Englishmen

(Breedon Books, £16.99), which

claims the Hammers as the last

entirely English-born and -bred

side to win either trophy (al-

though by my reckoning, Man-

missing."

The lazy way would have been to focus on the feats of Messrs Moore, Hurst and Peters. Instead the author uses the life - and recent death - of Alan Sealey, two-goal hero of the victory over Munich 1860, to plot a tale which wallows in nostalgia but avoids the Little Englander trap.

Memory (Robson Books, site corner. "That," he told the £14.95), John Keith collates the disconsolate custodian, "is how wisdom and wit of Liverpool's

legendary manager, including

a fascinating transcript of his

1975 local radio chat-show in-

terview with the Prime Minis-

ter. Harold Wilson. The

dersfield Town and Harold

Macmillan to socialism and

Steve Hale and Phil Thompson

(Ebury Press, £14.99), is less

folksy, relying mainly on Hale's

unrivalled portfolio of pictures

to chart what the sub-title

terms "a revolution in foot-

The Shankly Years, by

siding over a similar process in Scotland. His extraordinary era, which brought the European Cup that eluded Liverpool until Bob Paisley's reign, is ex-

Shankly's compatriots was pre-

amined in Jock Stein: The Celtic Years by Tom Campbell and David Potter (Mainstream Publishing, £14.99). A rounded picture includes Stein's flaws, with testimony from several of his players.

Many of the hooped heroes of '67 are profiled in A Scottish Football Hall of Fame (Mainstream, £14.99), John Cairney's affectionate assessment (interspersed with a wry line in social history) of 100 great Scots from Lord Kinnaird (Old Etonians) to Ally McCoist (Old

Bluenose).

Jeff Kent's The Potteries Derbies (Witan Books, £14.10 including p&p from 8 Nelson Crescent, Cotes Heath, via Staffford ST21 6ST) is a triumph of research, chronicling the 116-year history of hostilities between Port Vale and Stoke City in the least populous English city to support two senior clubs.

Nearby Macclesfield Town marked their inaugural League campaign with promotion on a pittance. The key moments are celebrated and off-guard backroom scenes captured in the high-quality photojournalism of Paul Atherton in Against All

Simultaneously. one of Odds (More Than Ninety Minutes Publishing. Brighton,

Breedon Books, having established their reputation with the Complete Record series. have moved successfully into oral and pictorial history at £16.99 a throw. For Wednesday Every Day of the Week, Keith Farnsworth taps memories spanning six decades of the Sheffield club's stars, staff and supporters.

Steve Gordos performs a similar task in Talking With Wolves which sheds new light on Molineux's pioneering nights in Europe. while David Lemmon's Arsenal in the Blood relives half a century of drama on and off the pitch at Highbury through the recollections of Bob Wilson, Pat Rice, Dennis Bergkamp and others.

However, one heavyweight hardback stands out among the club-based histories. The Official Manchester United IIlustrated Encyclopedia (published by the club in association with Andre Deutsch. £251, is bulging with statistical detail and pithy writing by United experts.

But what makes it exceptional is the superb design and use of graphics. It's hard to credit, but here at last is some Old Trafford merchandise that gives value for money.

TODAY

FOOTBALL 3.0 unless stated FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Manchester Utd v Middlesbrough 5 Newcastle v Leicester 6 Nortingham Forest v Blackburn...... 7 Southampton v Wimbledon..... est Ham v Everton NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

9 Barnsley v Swindon....... 10 Birmingham v Sunderland . 11 Bolton v Portsmouth 12 Bradford City v Wolves 33 Crewe v Huddersfield ...

20 Burnley v Northampton 21 Cresterfield v Wigan 22 Gillingham v Notts County 23 Luton v Milwall Reading v Oldham
Walsall v Stoke

THIRD DIVISION 33 Hatirax v Exerce.... 34 Harrierool v Southend Peterborough v Scarborough.....

O Dundee v Aberdeen.. ell v St Johnstone

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE 43 Ayr v Hamilton 44 Hibernian v Clydebank. Mirren v Falkirk SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION Alloa v Forfar

49 Arbroath y East File

Clyde v Queen of the South
Livingston v Stirling
Partick v Inverness CT
SCOTTISH THERO DIVISION

Brechin v Queen's Park Cowdenbeath v East Stirling Dumbarton v Stenhousemui Dumbarton v Stenhousemuir
Ross County v Montrose

FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
Barrow v Forest Green
Cheitenham v Stevenage
Doncaster v Dover
Hednesford v Welling
Hereford v Kettering
Leek v Kungstonlan

FA CARLSBERG VASE Third round: Bowers Utd v Diss Town. FA CARLSBERG WASE Third round: Bowers Utd v Diss Town.
RYMAN LEAGUE Premaier Division: Addershor v Heybridge; Billericay v Dutwich; Bishop's Stortford v Bromley (or Boreham Witcd): Chesham v Basingsroke: Gravesend v Dagenham v Redorldge; Hampton v Aylesbury; Hendon v Carshalton: Furfleet v Walton & Hersham; Stough v Borcham Wood; St Afbans v Harrow Borough; Sutton Utd v Enfield. Plast Division: Barton Rovers v Berkhamsot; Bognor Regis v Wembley: Braintree v Grays; Chertsey v Molesey. Croydon v Usbridge; Leyton Pennart v Makienhead; Oxford City v Worthing Romford v Stanes; Wealdstone v Leatherhead; Whyteleafe v Hitchin; Yeading v Canvey Island. Second Division: Chalfont St Peter v Wwenboe; Hardow Bedford own; Hertford v Edgware; Horsham v Hemel Hempstead; Hungerford v Menopolican Police; Leighton v Mindsor & Eton; Northwood v Banstesad; Thame v Bratonell; Tooting & Mitcham v Marjow; Witham v Abingdon Town; Wokingham v Barking. Third Divisions: Aweley v Cheshuni; Dorking v Croydon Arlietic Egham v East Thurrock: Ford Und v Southall; Hornchurth v Connthian Casuals; Kingsbury v Lewes; Tibury v Camberley, Tring v Esson & Ewell; Ware v Flackwell Headt; Wingate & Finchley v Clapton.

Ware v Fisckweil Hearh: Wingate & Finchley v Clapton.

UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division:
Accrington Stanley v Frickley: Bishop
Auckland v Onorley: Colwyn Bay v Spennymoor: Emley v Leigh Rivil: Gairsborough
v Altrincham; Marine v Gareshead; Runcorn v Blyth Spartars, Stallybridge v Lancaster: Winstby v Hyde; Winsford v Guseley;
Worksop v Bamber Bridge. First Division:
Alfreton v Droylsden: Ashton Utd v
Netherfield: Congleton v Whitley Bay; Farsley Celtic v Matdock; Fibtton v Eastwood

Town: Greens v Bradford Park Avenue; Har-rogate Town v Burscough; Hucknall v Traf-ford; Lincoln Utd v Radcilfte Borough; Stocksbridge v Great Harwood.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Divior Martiene - Weymouth; Boston ous slou: Atherstone v Weymouth; Boston ous v Gloucester; Cambridge City v Nunearon; Porchester v Cambridge Crawley v Bromsgrove: Dorchester v King's Lynn: Grestey Rovers v Grantham: Halesowen Town v Salsbury: Illeston v Merthyr Tydfil; Rothwell v Bath City; Tam-worth v Burton Albion; Worcester v Hast-ings. Midland Division: Bedworth v worth v Burton Arbion: Wortester v Hass-ings. Midland Dhrislon: Bedworth v Newport (Gwent); Bilston v Sutton Cold-field: Biowich v Stamford: Cevedon v Rac-ing Warwick; Moor Green v Cinderford. Paget Rangers v Evesham; Solihuli Bor-ough v Blakenall; Stourbridge v Shepshed Dynamo: VS Rugby v Stafford Rangers: We-ston-super-Mare v Hinckley Urd. South-era Division: Andover v Raunds; Bushley v Achievet Codn v Buttingt: Fisher Arb. erra Delesione: Andover v Raunds: Bushley v Ashlord: Corby v Dartford: Fisher Arhletic v Brackley: Folkestone Invocta v Baldock, Havant & Waterlooville v Chencester; Sittingbourne v Erich & Belvedere; St Leonards v Margate; Tonbridge v Chelmsford; Witney v Newport (Johl); Vase v Fleet. NORTH MESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE First Dhriston; Adverton LR v Maine Road: Cheadle v Prescot Cables: Clithence v Bootle; Glossop North End v Newcastle Town, Mössley v Vaushall GM; Ramsbottom v Leek CSOB: St. Helens v Holker Old Boys; Saford v Rossendale; Skelmersdale v Nantwich; Workington v Atherton Collieries.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE Premer Dikisions Chatham v Canterbury, Cray Wanderers v Deal; Crockenhill v Greenwich Borough; Erith v Slade Green; Faversham v Thamesmead; Herne Bay v Sheppey; Ramsigate v Lordswood; Turbridge Wells v Beckenham; Whitstable v Hythe. UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Division: Blackstone LEAGUE Premier Division: Blackstone v Wellingborough; Bourne v Long Buckby; Eynesbury v Spalding; Ford Sports v Boston Town: Kempston v Northampton Spencer; Potton v Buckingham Town: St Neots v Cogenhoe; Stewarts & Lloyds Corby v Woorton: Storfold v Holbeach. League Cap: Vaxley v Desborough.

UNLIET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Chichester v Whitehawk: Hallsham v Broadbridge Heath; Hassocks v East Preston; Languey Sports v Selsey. Littlehampt

ston; Languey Sports v Selsey. Littlehamp-ton v Burgess Hill; Ringmer v Porfield. Salttdean v Horsham YMCA; Shoreham v Pagham. John O'Hara League Cup second rounds Wick v Reclinit Third rounds South-ties. bourne Town v Sidlesham.

SCREMFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Backwell v Eimore: Bamscaple v Westbury: Bideford v Meiksham; Bridg-water v Paulton Rovers; Brislington v Man-

WEEKEND FIXTURES AND POOLS CHECK

Sotsfield: Caine v Binstol Manor Farm: Odd Down v Bridport: Taunton v Keynsham.

NORTHERN COUNTIES AST LEAGUE Premier Division: Brigg v Levisodge, Buston v Hallam; Eccleshil v Maltby, Garforth v North Femily, Ossett Ablon v Ossett Town: Pickeng v Armdid: Pontefract v Denaby, Selby v Thackley, Sheffield v Glasshoughton Welfare: Staveley v Armthorpe Welfare.

INTERLINK EXPRESS: MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Boldmer St Michaels v Shifnas! Bridgnorth v Halesowen Harriers; Chasetown v Krypersey Victor a; Pershore v Stapenhill: Sandwell Borough v Rushall Olympic: Stoaport Swifts v Rocester; Stratford v Petsoll Wild; Wednesfield v King's Norton; Wess Midlands Poloe v Barwell; Willenhall v Oldbury, ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Billingham Synthola v Bedillington Ferners: ChesterleStreet v Penrith; Consett v Billingham Synthola v Bedillington Ferners: Chester-leStreet v Penrith; Consett v Billingham Fown; Dunston FB v South Shields; Guisborough v Scaham Red Star; Jarrow v Crook; Morpeth v Yow Law; Stockton v Marske; West Auckland v Easington.

JEWSON WESSEK LEAGUE: Newbury v Moneyfields: Totton v Thatcham; BAT Sports v Gosport: Bournemouth FC v Fareham; Brockenhurst v Wilmborne; Cowes Sports v Whitchurch; Downton v Bemerton Heath; East Cowes Vics v Eastlegh; Hamble v Christchurch; Portsmouth RN v Lymington & New Millton.

JEWSON WESSTERN LEAGUE Premier Olivisions Bury Town v Felbstowe; Ely v Gorleston; Fakenham v Sudoury Wanderer; Wordson v Soham.

THE TIMES FA VOUTH CUP Taled Towns of the Standard Country Wordson v Soham.

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP Tried round: Manchester Utd v Everton (2 0) (at

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Clachracuddin v Fraserburgh; Cove Rangers v Deveronvale; Elgin v Hunt-ly; Fort William v Buckle Thistle; Kastin v Brora Rangers, Lossiemouth v Nalm County: Peterhead v Forres Mechanics: Rothes v Wick

Peterhead v Porres Mecnonics: rouves v vena Academy.

SMIRROOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Di-vision: Ballymena v Glenavon; Cirtonville v Coleraine; Crosaders v Ornagh; Gentoran v Newry, First Division: Ards v Limavady; Ballyciare v Bangor; Distillery v Larne; Dun-gannon Swifts v Carrick Rangers. LEAGUE OF WALES; Barry Town v Aberyzwyth (2.30); Caernarion Iown v TNS Llansantifraid (2.30); Caernarion Iown v TNS Llansantifraid (2.30); Caernav v Rhayad-er (2.30); Comhain's Cluay v Newtown (2.30); Cwmtoran v Holywell (2.30); Haver-rodwest v Carmarthen (2.30); Rhyl v In-ter Cable-Tel Cardiff (2.30) HARP LAGER MATIONAL LEAGUE OF RELAND Premier Division: Silgo Rovers v Shelbourne (7.30).

RUGBY LEAGUE 1.30 unless stated

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP See round: Askam v Heworth (2.0); Beverley East Hull v Townville: Dodworth v Castle-East Hull v Townville: Dodworth v Castle-ford Lock Lane: Dudley Hill v Wigan St Patricks (2.30): Eccles v Normanton: Egremont v Haydock: Featherstone Lons v Övenden (2.30): Moldgreen v Oulton: Norland v Crosfields; Oldham St Annes v Ellenborough; Queens v West Hull [2.0]: Rochdale Mayfield v Hull Dockers; Sad-dleworth v Walney Central; Siddal v Featherstone MW; Skurlaugh v Ideal Isberg: Thornhill v Barrow Island; Wigan Rose Br v Leigh M R; Wigan St Judes v Woolston. National: Conseptement Leacher V Legn M R; wigan St Judes V Woolston.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE

First Division: East Leeds v Redhill
(2.0): Miliford v Millom (2.0): Shaw Cross
Leigh East (2.0): Second Division: Beofund V Dewsbury Moor (2.30): Eastmoor
v New Earswick (2.30): Keignley Alb v York
Acom (2.0):

RUGBY UNION 2.30 unless stated ALLIED DUNBAR

Rotherham v Worcester (2.15). JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE One: JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE One:
Camborley v Birmingham/Solihuli: Henley v Rosslyn Park (2.0); Lydney v Odey (3.0); Manchester v Harrogate (2.15), Morley v Reading (3.0); Nottingham v Liverpool St Helens (3.0); Wharfedale v Newbury (2.15). Two North: Hinduley v Preston Grasshoppers; Kendal v Stourbridge (2.15); Lichfield v Neineaton: Sandal v Wirnington Park (2.15); Sedgley Park v Walsall: Sheffield v Aspoina; Whischurch v New Brighton. Two South: Bracknell v Plymouth (2.15); Havant v Cheltenham (2.0). Met Police v Bridgwater (3.0); Norwich v Esher (2.15); Redwith v Barking Tabard v Clifton (2.15); Weston-super-Mare v North Walsham (3.0).

v Ciliton (2.15): Weston-super-Mare v North Walsham (3.0). SWALEC CUP Fourth round Group A: Dinas Powys v Pontypool Utd; Ebbw Vale v Treherbert. Group B: Cross Keys v Dunwant: Glynneath v Trimsaran Group C: Bridgend v Treorthy: Talywain v Nantymed. Group D: Beddau v Whutland; Pontypool v Rhigos. Group E: Penygraig v Rhymney. Wiredham v Neath. Group P: Monmouth v Llanhilleth; Ystradgynlas v Vardre. Group G: Llanharan v Newport. Risca v Swarsea. Group H: Heol-Y-Cyw v Tondu:

Hirwaun v Kidwelly, Group 1: Cwmavon v Bedwas; Narberth v Caerphilly, Group J: Abercumbor v Maesteg: Betws v Black-wood, Group K: Blaengarw v Ynysybwl, Pontyclun v Llanelli (2 0) Group L: Cardiff v Llandovery, Pencoed v Aberollery.

wood. Group Nt. Blaengarw v Ynysyowi, Pontyclun v Llandvery, Pencoed v Abernillery, Group Mt. Cwmllynfell v Taffs Well: Pontypridd v Aberavon. Group Rt. Bultin Viels v Rumney, Tiedegar v Merthyr. Group Oxberavon v Carmarthen Quins: Vistrad Rhondda v South Wales Poice. Group Pt. Bonymaen v Newbordge: Oakdale v UWC (Cardiff Inst).

TENNENT'S VELIMET PREMIERSHIP FIRST DIVISION
Boroughmur v Glasgow Hawks [2:0]
Hawick v Jed-Forest [2:0]
Henots F.P v Warsonlans (2:0)
Henots F.P v Warsonlans (2:0)
West of Scotland v Melrose (2:0)
Second Division: Aberdeen GSFP v Edmourgh Acads (2:0): Biggar v Dunder HSFP (2:0): Gala v Sellvirk (2:0): Kelso v Kilmannot, C:0): Muselburgh v Kirkcaldy (2:0). Third Division: Ayr v Prespon Lodge (2:0): Eas Kilbride v Peebles (2:0): Grangemouth

(2:0): East norther Precies (2:0): Cientothes v Gordonians (2:0): Grangemouth v Glasgow Southern (2:0): Steviarts Mel EP v Berwick (2:0): A r B LEAGUE First Division: Ballymena v St Marys; Blackrock College v Shannon; Buccaneers v Terenure; Garryowen v Galwegians; Lansdowne v Clonterf. Young Munster v Cork Constitution. Second Division: Ballymahlich v Derry. Bective vision: Ballynahinch v Derry, Bective Rangers v Wanderers: Dolphin v Old Wesley: Dungarnon v Porzadown; Old Belvedere v Malone. Skernes v Greystones.

HOCKEY

PREMIER HOLIDAYS EAST PREMIER: Bishop's Stortford v Colchester.

SOUTH PREMIER: Beckenham v Purley
Walcountains: Wokingham v City of ONSHIP: (9.30-6.0) (at Cocks Moors Woods LC, Birmingham); (9.30-6.0) (at Perdiswell LC Worcester). PREMIER HOLIDAYS EAST INDOOR SUPER LEAGUE: (12.30-6 Q) (at Alden-

BASKETBALL BUDWEISER LEAGUE: London Towers v Manchester Gients (7.0). UNI-BALL TROPHY Pool stages! Leces-ter Riders v Milton Keynes Lions (7.30).

ICE HOCKEY SENONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Newcastle Riverkings v Sheffield Steelers (6.30); Cardiff Devils v Ayr Scottish Eagles (7.0). BRITISH NATIONAL LEAGUE CHRIST-MAS CUP: File Flyers v Edmburgh Cap-tals (7.0): Pasisey Prates v Petri (7.0). Slough Jets v Chelmsford Chleftains (6.20); Felford Tigers v Peterborough Pirates (7.30): Militon Keynes v Kingston (7.0).

OTHER SPORTS ATHLETICS: Reebok Cumbernauld Cross-Country B**CXUNG:** World Boring Organisation inter-continental super-featherweight title Gary Thorntuli (Lwerpool) v Steve Conway (Yorkshire) (at Everton Park Sports Cen-

tre. Inerpool).

EQUESTRIANISM: International Show Jumping Championships (or Olympia, Kensington, London). SNOOKER: Irish Open (at National Bas-ketball Arena: Dublin). SWIMMUNG: British Winter Champ-onships (at Glosgow).

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP enal v Leeds Utd (4.0)..... NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF derers v Bohermans (3.15); Cork City v University College Dublin (2.0); Derry City v UNIBOND LEAGUE First Division: Witton Albion v Belper (3.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE STLK CUT CHALLENGE CUP Second round: Worth Brown London Skolars (1.30).

RUGBY UNION 3.0 unless stated ALLIED DUNBAR

Newcastle v Sale West Hartlepool v Northampton..... PREMIERSHIP TWO: Coventry v Moseley. Leeds v Wakefield (2.30). ANGLO-WELSH FRIENDLIES Bedford v Swansea

AIB LEAGUE Second Division: Sunday's Well v Old Crescent (2.30), UCC v DLSP

HOCKEY

DTZ MIDLAND INDOOR CHAMPI-ONSHIP Finals: (10.0-3.45) (at Cocks Moors Woods LC. Birmingham) PREMIER HOLIDAYS EAST INDOOR SUPER LEAGUE: (10 0-6.15) (at Aldenham School).

SOUTH INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: (10.45-6 0) (at Epsom College)

BASKETBALL

BUDMEISER LEAGUE: Birmingham v Worthing (6 0): Edinburgh v Lecester (5.0). CLASSIC COLA NATIONAL CUP Semi-finals: Greater London v Newcastle (12 30): Tharnes Valley v Sheffield (2.45). ICE HOCKEY

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: London hnights v Ayr Scottish Eagles (6.0) BRITISH NATIONAL LEAGUE CHRIST-MAS CUP. Edinburgh Capitals v Palsley Pirates (6.30): Guildford Flames v Bas-ingstoke Bloon (6.0): Peterborough Prates v Telford Tigers (6.15): Petrit v Fife Fly-ers (5.30). Solihull v lungston (7.0).

OTHER SPORTS EQUESTRIANISM: International Show Jumping Championships (at Olympia, Kensington, London).

SNOOKER: Irish Open (at National Basketball Arena, Dublin). G: British Winter Championships (at Glasgow)

TRANSFERS

FULL TRANSFERS Free or undisclosed fee unless stated Keich Gillespie (forward) Newcastle Utd to Blackburn Rovers (22.35m); Mell Mic-cans (forward) Hearts to Rangers (£1.6m); John Aladal (forward) Portsmouth to Covertry (£650.000); Steve Timeed (de-fender) Stoke to Dundee [£150.000), Ally Pickering (defender) Stoke to Burnley; Tony Wiltzer (defender) Totalay to Barmer.

LOANS/TRIALS Pant Hughes (midfielder) Chelsea to Stockport (loan), Eric Wymaida (forward) San Jose Clash to Charlton (trad); Jonatan Johansson (forward) Rangers to Derby ohansson (forward) Rangers to Derb Jouncy (trial): Julian Watts (defender

Bristol City to Lincoln (loan); Patrick Col

Premiership: Leeds manager putting predecessor's lessons to good use while stamping own mark on Elland Road

O'Leary dips into fountain of youth

BY CLIVE WHITE

HE MAY be the founding father of the Arsenal back four, a sort of Tony Adams prototype, if you like, and he may, in his own words, want to be just like George Graham", but the Irish in David O'Leary, whether he likes it or not, has invested in him a free spirit. As a consequence, the new Leeds manager is very much his own man.

It is fair to say that few of those six or seven players under the age of 21 who will take the field at Highbury tomorrow would have been among the visitors' selection had Graham still been in charge, particularly as it will be no place for innocents, not after the champions have been written off by their own coach, Arsène Wenger, in the wake of last Sunday's startling 3-2 defeat

But O'Leary has little alternative but to keep giving youth its chance, and besides, it is what he believes in. As someone who was introduced into the Arsenal first team 23 years ago as a 17-year-old, it would be hypocritical to be otherwise. Not that his philosophy went down too well with the Leeds board when he was appointed last month, "I think some of them pooed themselves when I told them what I wanted to do," he said.

It had been a constant battle with his mentor to persuade him to play the kids, the precocious Harry Kewell apart. Eighteen-year-old Jonathan Woodgate, a centre-back in his new manager's own image, was only risked in a friendly in Ireland during an early-season break on the understanding from Graham that "if it goes well, I'll take the credit, but if it goes badly I'm blaming you." As it turned out, it went well but Woodgate still did not get his chance in the League side until O'Leary took over.

"That's the great thing about being manager - you get to pick the team." he said with boyish enthusiasm. "For the two years I'd been training the youngsters I'd been telling myself. if I ever get the chance I'm going to put them in'. They may think I'm a young idiot of a manager but I might as well succeed or fail doing it the way I want to."

O'Leary, though, was less than positive when it came to wanting the job of Leeds manager. On the contrary, he said he did not want it. "I didn't think the people here would want a No 2. I was shocked when I discovered that the fans did. I knew the players did but that worried me. I've been in dressing-rooms before where players wanted managers for the wrong reasons.

"I didn't agree with the club and the three weeks they spent pid- Alex Ferguson. George was my he'd do it. That's what makes people dling around with Martin O'Neill. It mentor, I couldn't have had a better like him and Ferguson winners. If should have all been decided in a week. But when they eventually offered it to me. I couldn't take it just like that, I had to consider one or two things. I haven't been offered a pot of gold here. I haven't even been told how much I've got to spend. But I do know if we're going to get this club back challenging for honours we've got to buy a lot more quality players.

"The youngsters are peaking now but they'll get tired when it matters, sadly, when the final push comes for a European place," said the voice of experience. "They always do. The body at that age finally has enough and closes down. But next year they'll be stronger for it."

After the success he has had since taking over from Graham, it would seem strange to hear O'Leary say: "I wish he was still here, it would have been a pleasure working for him for the next three or four years." They may not have always seen eyeto-eye tactically or about the de-



David O'Leary, installed in the manager's seat at Elland Road, at work in his office and (below) during his playing days with Arsenal, who play host to Leeds tomorrow

ployment of youth but O'Leary has the utmost respect for the man who has been his boss, both as a player and as an assistant manger.

"People say I should have gone somewhere like Cambridge and learned my trade but, with all due respect to those people, I'd like to know what I would have learned down there," he said. "At Leeds I was under a fella who is the best - although I've got great admiration for teacher. Under him I learned about anything gets in their way, too bad." discipline and about tactics and to be like him, not to be a manger week's holiday after the 1990 World it - and was instrumental in per-

Having spent five months living together in a hotel in Yorkshire, O'Leary got to know the former Arsenal manager probably better than most of his No 2s have, not that he believes it has afforded him any special privileges: "For all us being great friends, I know if he could buy some of my players he flaming well would," he said. "I could be out with George having a good night but if he could stitch me up by selling me a dud

"But it's taught me to be strong burden in itself, without being with players, you cannot afford to let them get away with an inch in the present financial climate. With the money players earn nowadays fining them is a waste of time. You've got to earn their respect otherwise you can end up losing your job. It only takes a couple of bad eggs to ruin a club. If that makes O'Leary sound like

a poacher-turned-gamekeeper, one should point out that he went into bat for Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink when the Dutchman asked Graham for Yet O'Leary was not afraid to extra time off after the World Cup ficoaching, and I learned that I want stand up to him, once taking an extra nals last summer - and this time got

weighed down by the deadweights around the club at the time, such as Tony Yeboah and Tomas Brolin. "It was the wrong club for him at that time." said O'Leary. "He need-

ed to go to a better squad to improve. It reminded me of when Charlie Nicholas came down to Arsenal. He was supposed to be the icing on the cake but he was nowhere near the finished product. He should have gone to Liverpool and joined a top squad, it might have been the mak-

Bowyer should have been used like [Nicolas] Anelka was by Arsenal last season, putting him in, taking him out, learning his trade. But I'm starting to win the battle with Bowyer now, got him doing weights and he's building himself up. I've told him he's going to have to come and live with me if he doesn't conduct himself right and live right."

For some 20 years as a player, O'Leary was the model professional. The majority of those years were spent at Arsenal, where he seemed as much a part of the furniture as the marble halls themselves. Yet the club does not seem as deeply ingrained upon his heart as it was with the sadly disgraced Graham, who, it seemed, could not get back to that corner of north London fast enough.

"It's a different club now," O'Leary said. "I've had my day there and now I'm totally immersed in everything



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Missier Utd v

Midlebrough

EMCSSILE A

leicester

'Under George Graham I learned about discipline and about tactics and coaching, and I learned that I want to be like him'

coach. Like George I do the lot, I've seen Bertie Mee's administration and Don Howe's coaching and I want to be both of them together, because I think that's what George was.

I was left in charge. He would let me he gave me so much responsibility lot and because I was coaching the players I knew exactly who I wanted in and who I wanted out."

I'd played in 53 out of Arsenal's 57 games the previous season and was one of the fittest players in the club "He was down in London a lot so not my problem you've been running around Italy all summer' When I do most things - although he wouldn't didn't return on time he fined me two let me sign anybody - but the fact that weeks' wages and banished me to the reserves for three months. I'd be meant he respected me. I learned a on the bench and the fans would be shouting for me and I could see George thinking, 'well, he's not com-

who brings someone else in to Cup - against Graham's wishes. suading Lucas Radebe, whom Gra-"He was a silly sod and he knows it. ham hungered after, and Nigel Martyn to sign new contracts. "If I'd left I don't think Lucas would have stayed, no matter who came in, but but he refused me. He told me: It's I had him here," he said pointing to his pocket.

He has also begun to bring out the best in arguably the most exciting but hitherto most disappointing of all his youngsters, Lee Bowyer The expectation of being the country's most expensive teenager, when he arrived at Elland Road from Charlton two years ago for £2.6m was a

Graham's credentials test

BY THE TIME David O'Leary returns to Highbury for the first time as a manager with his in-form Leeds team tomorrow. Arsenal's players will hope to have recaptured some of the form and fitness that carried them to fever pitch and beyond last season. But before George Graham's last two teams meet, the spotlight in the capital turns towards his present one. Tottenham, who play Chelsea at Stamford Bridge today in a fix-ture that should mean more than just local politics.

George Graham's Tottenham may still sound as incongruous to Londoners as Wimbledon Football Club but, to no one's great surprise, the erstwhile Arsenal autocrat is beginning to steer their great rivals away from trouble. With every game that passes, Graham's credentials take on a more lillywhite hue as the Highbury red pales.

another of his old clubs, and although Spurs will be keen to record their first Premiership victory over Chelsea at the 13th attempt, simply avoiding defeat will represent another significant step in the rehabilBY ADAM SZRETER

Chelsea, of course, have grander designs following the defeat of leaders Aston Villa and the impressive showing at Old pecting no favours from a man-Trafford. Gianluca Vialli's team has not lost in the Premiership since the opening day of the season, against Coventry, and if Gianfranco Zola's modesty would permit him he would tell you that was the only League game he has not started. Zola's form, like his haircut, is back to ly dodgy spell last season that cost him his place in the World Cup, and his equalising goal on Wednesday night bore all the hallmarks of a former Footballer of the Year.

Manchester United, like Chelsea, are in the middle of a tough programme and today's visit of fifth-placed Middlesbrough is probably not what ry red pales.

Alex Ferguson needs right now.
This afternoon he is back at
Paul Gascoigne's suspension ensures that the mutual-admiration society of Manchester United past and present will take centre-stage with Gary Pallister, the most medalled of all United players, guaranteed a warm welcome on his return. Going back to Old Trafford

midable-looking Middlesbrough team with him certainly is, and Ferguson will be exager who is still favourite to take

over from him at Old Trafford when he finally calls it a day. If Robson has a serious rival in that race it could be Brian Kidd, for whom the reality of life at the bottom should make its mark today at Nottingham Forest - if it has not already. Kidd's its very best after the distinct- Blackburn and Forest are among a group of five clubs beginning to lose touch with the Premiership pack, so today would not be a good time for Blackburn to concede their first goal under their new manager, who will have Brian McClair by

> his side for the first time. Whatever the outcome at the City Ground, the eyes of all concerned will be on the results from Highfield Road and the Dell, where supporters of Coventry and Southampton are already bracing themselves for a return to the relegation frontline after one season of midtable respite. While Coventry will be optimistic about the visit of inconsistent Derby County, Dave Jones will doubt-

may be nothing new to Bryan less be dreading the effect that Robson but taking such a for- Wimbledon might have on the morale of fragile Southampton. Jones and all the managers

at the bottom will be clinging to the belief that, usually, at least one club in trouble half-way through the season puts on a spurt after Christmas, and those in the next tier will be only too conscious that the reverse can also apply. What price Liverpool to slide all the way? Sheffield Wednesday, one defeat in eight games, should provide a reasonable gauge of the Reds' progress under Gérard Houllier at Anfield this afternoon, where the Koppites will scrutinise the attitude of their players as much as willing them to win after three defeats in a row. Newcastle and Leicester are

permanently stationed at the crossroads these days, albeit under managers who have proved themselves in the Premiership. They meet at St James' Park, where the locals are still waiting for a glimpse of the new Alan Shearer-Duncan Ferguson goal machine they visit West Ham, where David Unsworth seems sure to come in for a good-humoured, East End character assassination.

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1						TUI	ne				Awa	ay .			5-game form	1	
L		Pl	Pts	GD	W	D	L	_ F	A	W	D	L	F	_ A	Most recent on right	Upcoming matches	
L	Aston Villa	17	33	+10	-6	2	. 1:	17	-(1	3	4	1	10	6	FDDUM	Monday Charlion (A); Saturday Blackburn (A); 28 Dec Sheff Wed (H); 9 Jan Middlesbrough (A).	
2	Man Utd	17	31	+14	6	3	0	22	9	2	4	2	12	11	LWDDD	Today Middlesbrough (H): Saturday Notton Forest (H): 29 Dec Chelsea (A): 10 Jan West Ham (H).	
3	Chelsea	17	30	+10	5	3	0	13.	5.	2	6	1	14	12	DDWDD	Today Duerham (-1), Saturday Southernpurn (A); 29 Dec Man Utd (H); 9 San Newcassik (A),	
4	Leeds	17	29	+14	6	2	1	16	3	1	6	1	12	11	MMIMM	Theorem Arsenal (A); Samurlan Newcastle (A); 28 Dec Wimbledon (H), 9 Jan Blackburn (A).	
5	Middlesbroagh	17	27	+8	4	5	0.	15	_7	2	4	` 2 ·	12	12	DWDDW	Today Man Utd (A): Saturday Liverpool (H): 28 Dec Derby (A): 9 Jan Aston Villa (H).	
6	Arsenal	17	26	+7_	4	4	0	11	3_	2	4	3	6	_ 7	DLDDL	Tomotrom Leeds (H): Saturday West Ham (H): 28 Dec Charlton (A): 9 Jan Liverpool (H).	
7	West Ham	17.	26	-2	- 4	3	1	12	9	. 3	, 2	4	8	· 12·	WWWLL	Today Everton (H); Saturday Arsenal (A); 28 Dec Coventry (H); 10 Jan Man Util (A).	
8	Wimbledon	17	26	-4	5	3	1	14	9	_2	2	4	8	17	MAKTIMET	Today Southampton (A): Saturday Charlton (H): 28 Dec Leeds (A), 9 Jan Derby (H).	
9	Lekester	17.	24	+2	5	2	2 -	14	9	1	4	- 3	7	10	LLDWW	Today Newcastle (A), Saturday Shelf Wed (A); 28 Dec Blackburn (H): 9 Jans Everton (A):	
10	Derby	17	23	+1	2	5	2	8	8	3	3	2	9	8	DLWDD	Today Coventry (A): Saturday Everton (A): 28 Dec Middlesbrough (H).: 9 Jan Wimbledon (A).	
11	Tottenham	17	23	- =3	4	3 ·	2	15	15	2	2:	⁻ -4	8	:11	DWLWD	Today Chelses (A): Saturday Covenny (A): 28 Dec. Everton (H): 9 Jam Sheff Wed (A).	
12	Liverpool	17	22	+5	3	3	2	15	10	3	1_	5	12	12	LWWLL	Today Sheff W (H): Saturday Middleshro (A): 28 Dec Newcastle (H): 9 Jan Arsenal (A).	
13-	Sheff Wed	17	22	+3	-5	2	2	13	. 5	1	.2	. 5 -	7	12	MDLWM	Today Liverpool (A): Saturday Lettester (H): 28 Dec Aston Villa (A): 9 Jan lotterham (H).	
14	Everton	17	22	-4	2	5	2	3	5	3	2	3	8	10	TMMDM	Roday West Ham (A): Securday Derby (H): 28 Dec Tortenham (A): 9 Jam Jestes Per (H):	
15.	Neurastie	17	21	• 6	4	2	2		10	1	4.	.4	-8	11.	DEMIDD	Dec Liverpool (A); 9 Jan Chelses (H); 28	
16	Chariton	17	16	-5	2	3	2	13	8	1		5	9	19	DLLLL	Monday Aston V (H): Saturday Wimbledon (A). 28 Dec Arsenal (H): 9 Jan Southampton (A).	
17	Coventry	17	15	-11	3	2	3	<u>.</u> 9	10	:1-	1.	7		15	WLDLL	Today Derby (H). Saturday Totterham (H); 28'. Dec West Ham (A): 9 Jan Notim Forest (H):	
18	Blackburn	17	13	-9	3	2	4	10	10	0	2	6	5	14	TLUMD	ioday Notin Forest (A): Saturday Asion Villa (H): 28 Dec Lexester (A): 9 Jan Leeds (H).	
19,	Notina Forest	17	11	-15	1	4	3	6	9	1 1	1	7	9	21	DFDFF	Today Blackburn (H); Seturday Man Utd (A): 28 Dec Southampton (H); 9 Jan Coventry (A).	
20	Southampton	17	10	-22	1	2	5	9	17	1	2	6	3	17	TMLTT	Today Wimbledon (H): Saturday Chekea (H): 28 Dec Nottrn Forest (A): 9 Jan Charlton (H).	

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

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OEDENDENT.

Weekend guide to the Premiership



Chelsea v Tottenham

Last season: 2-1



IN A POSSIBLE case of reverse psychology, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, George Graham, was tipping Chelsea to win the League vesterday.

"I believe it could be their year because Chelsea have the depth and strength in their squad to keep them right up there with the Manchester Uniteds and the Arsenals," Graham said. "And the difference with them this season is that they are much more consistent, picking up points from games which

last season they would have lost."

And though he fears for the future of homegrown players amid the mass importation of overseas talent, he said he would happily adopt Gianluca Vialli's foreign policy if it meant turning Tottenham into title contenders.

And statistics

of the 90 minutes.

Steve Jones (Charlton)

Tor Andre Flo (Chelsea)

James Beattle (Southampton)

Danny Cadamarteri (Everton)

Phil Stamp (Middlesbrough)

Stuart Wilson (Leicester)

Gianfranco Zola (Chelsea)

Theo Zagorakis (Leicester)

Eyal Berkovic (West Ham)

Marcus Gayle (Wimbledon)

Carl Leaburn (Wimbledon)

Clyde Wijnhard (Leeds)

Pierluigi Casirahgi (Chelsea)

Paul Gascoigne (Middlesbrough)

Hamilton Ricard (Middlesbrough)

players called out of the action early.

The goalkeeping Cinderellas

Five men who have spent all

season on the bench with no

Mark Crossley (Nottingham Forest)

NB: Pegguy Arphexad did get to the ball when he was a 61st minute substitute for Kasey Keller in Leicester's first match of the season but has been firmly on the bench for the 16 games since then.

With nominated Premiership sides up to 16 people, more and more players have to wait patiently on their teams' benches. Some spend more time there than others.

remiership clubs' players-in waiting (outfielders)

Players at each club that have spent most matches on

the bench inactive (appearances in other games)

Leeds' David Wetheral! (6)

Leicester's Garry Parker (5)

Blackburn's Gary Croft (4)

Arsenal's Gilles Grimandi (3)

Charlton's Steve Brown (6)

Man Utd's Henning Berg (7)

Newcastle's Warren Barton (10)

Sheff Wed's Jim Magilton (6)

West Ham's Marc Keller (10)

West Ham's Samassi Abou (2)

Chelsea's Eddie Newton (1)

Everton's Gareth Farrelly (1)

Derby's Steve Elliott (6)

Tottenham's Stephen

Ciemence (11)

Chelsea's Bernard Lambourde (6)

Southampton's Richard Dryden (4)

Aston Villa's Simon Grayson (7)

Liverpool's Bjorn Tore Kvarme (2)

Coventry's Trond Egil Soltvedt (9)

Middlesbrough's Clayton Blackmore (0)

Nottm Forest's Christian Edwards (1)

Wimbledon's Mark Kennedy (7)

chance to get to the ball

Matthew Clarke (Sheffield

Paul Heald (Wimbledon)

Kevin Hitchcock(Chelsea)

Steve Ogrizovic(Coventry)

Wednesday)

9 Games

Number of

BY CHRIS MAUME

The possible long-term effects on young English players trying to break through are obvious but, as a manager, you can only do one thing at a time," he said.

"And the first is to make sure your club is successful. Chelsea have got it right now. I'd love to do the same at Tottenham with all British players but if it means getting the quality I want then I wouldn't hesitate to buy abroad. Don't be surprised if we make some signings before long. Some people are saying that because we've done well in terms of recent results that I won't get the chequebook out but that's not true.

Dennis Wise misses out for Chelsea as he

1998-99 Premiership

20

138

107

games played

Why football's bench mark is changing

It's over 30 years since Keith Peacock became the first

Football League substitute for Charlton against Bolton on

grown beyond expectation and so far this season only 20 starting line-ups have completed games intact. On 107

occasions all three substitutes have been used by the end

Super-subs – the top flight's most used

Dougie Freedman (Nottingham Forest)

. and those who are replaced most often

Jean Claude Darcheville (Nottingham Forest)

As much as foreign players have been welcomed into Premiership football they are often the

21 August 1966 Since then the business of substitutes has

sailly and Franck Leboeuf. Desailly has recovered from the knee injury which kept him out of the midweek draw at Manchester United, while Leboeuf is available again after missing that game due to a one-match ban.

Full-back Graeme Le Saux is also expected to be fit after being taken off with a knock at Old Trafford on Wednesday, while midfielder Roberto Di Matteo could play against Spurs with a brace protecting his injured hand,

Justin Edinburgh returns to the Tottenham squad three weeks after a knee operation as Graham's squad chase their first Premiership away win under his manage-

Currently it's Charlton - along with Chelsea, Man Utd and

Newcastle – that have the busiest benches. Alex Ferguson has used all three substitutes in as many as 11 of United's games. Harry Redknapp at West Ham in contrast has only used his full

When it comes to the individual substitutes Steve Jones, suitably of Charlton, played his first full Premiership game at

season – he was unavailable for the game with Chelsea – had all been as substitute. Unfortunately for Steve his full appearance

was not enough to halt the Addicks' recent winless run and they

Premiership 1998-99

Clubs' use of substitutes

used so far (of

maximum 51)

39

38

30

all 3

subs

Hillsborough last Saturday. His previous 15 appearances thi

Man Utd

Chariton

Chelsea

Nottm Forest

Wimbledon

Leicester

Blackburn

Coventry

Everton

Liverpool

Tottenham

Aston Villa

Sheff Wed

West Ham

Leeds

Southampton

Middlesbrough

Derby

Charlton's Steve

Premiership's

most used sub

Jones, the

Newcastle

quota once - in the only goal victory over Southampton at Upton

begins his latest suspension, but the Blues are ment, Full-back Edinburgh, who had surgery able to welcome back centre-backs Marcel De- to remove some flaking bone inside the knee, could replace winger Andy Sinton who has deputised in defence in the last four games but collected a a shin injury against Manchester United last Saturday.

Centre-backs John Scales and Ramon Vega are still missing through injuries and 19-year-old Luke Young looks set to play his

fifth senior game in a row.

CHELSEA (from: De Goey Hitchcock, Kharine, Leboeuf, Babayaro, Dessily, Le Sau-Ferrer, Myers, Duberry, Lambourde, Erry, Petreson, D. Matteo, Poyer, Goldback, Nicholls, Morris, Vialli, Zola, Flo.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): Walker, Carr, Calderwood, Young, Campbell, Edinburgh, Sinten, Wilson, Fox, Nielsen, Anderton, Gmola, Ferdinand, Armstrong, Allen, Clemence,





Coventry v **Derby County**

COVENTRY'S NEW £650,000 signing from Portsmouth, John Aloisi, is expected to be among the substitutes for today's game against Derby at Highfield Road. Aloisi completed his move the Sky Blues on Thursday, but despite his new side's urgent need for a goalscorer, it looks as though he will have to wait for his first start. Darren Huckerby returns from suspension to play alongside Noel Whelan up front, while Paul Telfer is also back after a one-match ban.

Derby are hoping that their Italian midfielder Stefano Eranio will win his race to be fit for the match. The former Milan player has been a victim of the flu bug currently sweeping the country, but he is expected to start providing he has recovered in time. County's German defender, Stefan Schnoor, is looking doubtful with an ankle injury, but there is some good news for the Rams manager, Jim Smith, as his midfielder Lee Carsley is available again after serving a one-match suspension. The captain, Igor Stimac, is still in Croatia, in an effort to speedup his recovery from an ankle problem.

COMENTRY CITY (from): Hedman, Nilsson, Shaw, Williams, Edworthy, Telfer, McAllister, Boateng, Froggett, Huckerby, Whelan, Aloisi, Jackson, Breen, Burrows, Daish, Soltvedt, Shilton, Ograzivic. DERBY COUNTY (from): Poom, Prior, Carbonan, Laursen, Delap, Bohinen, Erano, Powell, Oorigo, Baiano, Vianchope, Sturndge, Hoult, Carsley, Harper, Elliott. Schnoor.



Liverpool v



Wednesday this afternoon. Since beating Coventry at Antield on 9 September, they have have won only four of 11 home games in all competitions, leaving them with their worst overall record for 44 years. Manager Gerard Houllier has the long-term injury problems of Steve McManaman, Oyvind Leonhardsen, Sean Dundee and Rob Jones to contend with and is unlikely to have many al-ternatives to the side that lost 1-0 at Wimbledon last Sunday.

Helmer have broken down due to contractual problems, and Houllier is still considering a move for Cameroon defender Rigobert Song, who has been training at the club this week. Sheffield Wednesday manager Danny Wilson looks set to

name an unchanged line-up as his side seek their third straight win. Wilson has no fresh injury worries following the Owls' victory at home to Charlton last week, so the same starting XI are likely to keep their places for the sixth consecutive game. LINERPOOL (from): James, Carragher, Babb, Staunton, Heggern, Ince, Redinapp. Berger, Bjornebye, Owen, Fowler, Riedle, Harkness, McAteer, Friedel, Kvarme, Gerrard, Markeo.



Manchester Utd v Middlebrough

Last season: No fixture

DWIGHT YORKE looks certain to miss the visit of Middlesbrough to Old Trafford after aggravating a groin strain during Wednesday's draw with Chelsea. United's leading scorer - the Trinidadian has scored seven goals in the Premiership and 12 overall - sat out last Saturday's game at Tottenham, made the starting line-up in midweek only for the problem to flare up again. He will have intensive treatment up to kick-off but Ferguson is not ready to risk him with the busy Christ-inas programme coming up.

The United manager has a striking dilemma up front, with Ole Gunnar Solskjaer also having treatment on an ankle injury after being left out of the squad on Wednesday. Ferguson could be forced into using last season's strike force of Teddy Sheringham and Andy Cole.

Middlesbrough, for whom Gary Pallister makes what is likely to be an emotional return to Old Trafford, are waiting for fitness tests on Gianluca Festa, Curtis Fleming, Phil Stamp. Mark Summerbell and Brian Deane.

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): Schmeichel, Brown, Stam, G Neville, Irwin, Beckham, Keane, Scholes, Giggs, Cole, Solskjaer, Sheringham, Blomqvist, Butt, Johnsen, P Neville, Greening, Van der Gouw. MIDDLESBROUGH (from): Schwarzer, Roberts, Fleming, Gordon, Stockdale, Pal-hster, Cooper, Vickers, Festa, Mustoe, Townsend, Summerbell, Rickard, Deane, Beck. Blackmore, Kinder, Harrison,



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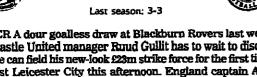
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Newcastle v Leicester



AFTER A dour goalless draw at Blackburn Rovers last week, Newcastle United manager Rund Gullit has to wait to discover if he can field his new-look £23m strike force for the first time, against Leicester City this afternoon. England captain Alan Shearer will undergo a late fitness test on the hamstring injury that has kept him out of the last four games, while a lastminute decision will be taken on his partner Duncan Ferguson, who has missed training all week with flu. Club captain Rob Lee is back from suspension and goalkeeper Shay Given appears to have recovered from a shoulder problem.

Tony Cottee could be in line for a surprise return for Leicester, who have won only once in their last 17 visits to St James' Park, but who moved into the top half of the table with their Highbury after damaging a shoulder ligvictory over Nottingham Forest last Saturday. The veteran striker has been out for four weeks with a thigh strain but is in contention for a place today. Steve Walsh is doubtful with the flu, but Frank Sinclair returns from suspension. Matt Elliott could

return to central defence. NEMCASTLE UNITED (from): Harper, Grven, Charvet, Barton, Howey, Hughes, Dabzas, Lee, Speed, Glass, Solano, Hamann, Shearer, Ferguson, Andersson, Ketsbala, Pearce, Albert, Dalglish, LEIGESTER CITY (from): Kelier, Arphexad, Guppy, Walsh, Taggart, Sinclair, Elhott, United Street, Lennon, Parker, Izzet, Zagorakis, Kaamark, Impey, Savage, Heskey, Cottang, Miston, Fenton.

Referee: J Winter.



Statistics: Brian Sears /Nick Harris

Arsenal v Leeds

TOMORROW'S GAME (4.0)

Last season: 2-1

ARSENAL'S ENGLAND goalkeeper David Seaman is almost certain to miss tomorrow's Premiership visit of Leeds United to

The news is a blow for the Premiership champions, whose manager, Arsene Wenger, was confident their injury crisis had eased considerably with the return of French midfield pair Emmanuel Petit and Patrick Vieira. Both are fit to face Leeds after their crucial partnership was broken a month ago, when Vieira sustained a hamstring injury against Wimbledon and Petit suffered a torn stomach muscle.

Vieira made his comeback against Aston Villa last Sunday and now Petit returns as well after missing five games.

The Austrian Under-21 international Alex Manninger stands by to replace Seaman in only his third game this season. But Tony Adams (back), Ray Parlour (knee), Nigel Winterburn (hamstring) and Stephen Hughes (hip) are still out, so the Argentinian defender Nelson Vivas is set to continue at left back.

Leeds have injury worries of their own, with their captain, Lucas Radebe, and new signing David Batty both rated "very doubtful" for tomorrow's match.

home win over Coventry on Monday, only his second game back following a fiveweek lay-off after damaging ligaments in the same knee, while Batty, on his second debut for Leeds, sustained bruised ribs in the same match. Alfie Haaland, who is available again after suspension, stands by to deputise.

There have been 34 goals by subs this season, or one goal every 12 substitutions.

Goals

by subs

scored

Best substitute net

Chelsea

Man Utd

Newcastle

Tottenham

Tore Andre Flo (Chelsea)

Steffen Iversen (Tottenham)

Efan Ekoku (Wimbledon)

Jordi Cruyff (Man Utd)

Alan Smith (Leeds)

Leeds

... and the super duper subs in the making

3 goals as a sub

2 goals as a sub

Players who have scored as a sub more than once

ARSENAL (from): Manninger, Dixon, Keown. Bould. Vivas, Lipusberg, Petit, Vieira, Overmars, Bergkamp, Anel-ka, Wreh. Upson, Grimandi, Boa Morte, Taylor.

LEDS UNITED (from). Martyn, Haaland. Radebe, Wernerall. Wijnhand. Hasselbaink. Ribelro, Bowyer, Hopkin, Gramille. Halle, Kewell, Harte. Botty, Woodgate. Molenaar, McPhall, Smith. Roblinson.

Nottingham Forest v Blackburn

Last season: No fixture



THE NOTTINGHAM Forest manager, Dave Bassett, is poised to spring a defensive surprise for the visit of fellow strugglers Blackburn. Bassett is toying with the idea of deploying a central defender. Jon Olav Hjelde, at right-back as he is keen to revert to a 4-4-2 formation, but has been unhappy with the performances of Thierry Bonalair in that position. And with transfer-listed Des Lyttle on loan at Port Vale, he is set to turn to Hjelde - even though he has never played at full-back for Forest. Meanwhile, the forward Dougie Freedman is expected to return to the front line at the expense of Marlon Harewood.

Rovers, seeking to sustain their encouraging start under new manager Brian Kidd, include their £2.35m signing Keith Gillespie in the squad travelling to the City Ground, and could also have Chris Sutton returning to action after a six-week lay-off through suspension and injury. Kevin Gallacher will again be missing, however Centre-back Darren Peacock is available again after recovering from a broken toe and goalkeeper John Filan, who has been suffering from concussion, faces a late fitness test. NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): Beasant, Hjelde, Bonalair, Rogers, Chettle, Mattsson, Armstrong, Gemmill, Stone, Johnson, Quashle, Bart-Williams, Van Hooi-Jdonk, Freedman, Harewood, Shipperley, Gray, Darcheville, Crossley.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): Fetris, Kenna, Henchoz, Dailly, Davidson, Johnson Shenwood, McKinlay, Wiktor, Davies, Blake, Duff, Broomes, Marcolin, Croft, Williams Gillespie, Peacock, Filan, Sutton. Referee: 5 Lodge.



Southampton v Wimbledon



CENTRAL DEFENDER Ken Monkou is expected to return to Southampton's starting line-up after missing the last three matches with a thigh injury. The Dutchman could return in place of Gary Monk as Saints attempt to end a run of three successive defeats without a goal. Norwegian striker Egil Ostenstad will play in attack. Cariton Palmer returns from a onematch suspension, but manager David Jones is still hampered by injuries to long-term casualties David Hirst, John Beresford and Francis Benali

Hughes on the treatment table for a groin injury and misses the trip. However, although Ainsworth is out for at least a week, he has hopes of being back in action on Boxing Day.

Nigerian international Efan Ekoku is expected to remain a substitute after his stay on the bench in the win over Liverpool last Sunday. The transfer-listed striker is anxious to leave the Dons and is reportedly angry that offers from other Premiership clubs have been turned down by manager Joe Kinnear.

SOUTHAMPTON (from): Jones, Hiley, Monkou, Lundekvarn, Dodd, Palmer, Hugnes, Oakley, Bridge, Le Tissier, Ostenstad, Kachloul, Monk, Basham, Beattle, Warner, Williams, Sternsgaard.
WINIBLEDON (from): Sullivan, Cunningham, Kimble, Perry, Blackwell, Thatcher, C Hughes, Earle, Bloku, Roberts, Gayle, Ardley, Heald, Leaburn, M Hughes, Kennedy, Castledine, Euell, Jupp, Clarke, Corr. Fear.
Suspensions, Wirabledon: Euell,



West Ham v **Everton**

Last season; 2-2



EVERTON WILL have three West Ham old boys in their line-up at Upton Park, but not all of them are likely to be expecting a warm festive welcome. The injury-hit Merseysiders have Slaven Bilic, Don Hutchison and David Unsworth all returning to the East End, and while Unsworth and Hutchison can expect a good response from the Upton Park faithful, Bilic knows he is in for an afternoon of abuse after implying that the Hammers were unambitious before joining Everton. Danny Cadamarteri's return from suspension is the only bright spot for Everton's manager, Walter Smith. His squad is badly weakened by injuries to Craig Short and Dave Watson, while Ibrahima Bakayoko, John Oster and Gareth Farrelly all have flu. Michael Ball also has been hit by the virus sweeping the club, but is suspended in any case.

For West Ham. centre-back Neil Ruddock begins a threematch ban while John Moncur is also suspended. Paul Kitson is still out with a toe problem but should be fit for the Christmas programme. Eyal Berkovic and Javier Margas both return to the squad after injury.

WEST HAM (from): Histop, Pearce, Ferdinand, Potts, Margas, Lomas, Lampard, Lazardis, Keller, Sinclair, Berkovic, Hartson, Wright, Forrest, Omoyimni, Etherington, Breacker, Coyne, Bcylan, EVERTON (from): Myhre, Cleland, Bilic, Materazzi, Unsworth, Collins, Hutchison, Grant, Dacourt, Barmby, Madar, Cadamarten, Ward, Branch, Simonsen, Jeffers, McDermott, Regan, Farley

Suspensions: West Ham: Ruddock, Moncur, Everton: Bail, Dunne



MONDAY NIGHT'S GAME (8.0) Charlton v

Aston Villa Last season: No fixture



TWO SIDES that have tasted life at the top of the Premiership this season meet at The Valley on Monday having experienced contrasting recent pasts. Charlton, surprise League leaders in August, albeit briefly, have won just one of their last eight League games. Manager Alan Curbishley kept his players in the dressing room for more than an hour and a half after last week's 3-0 defeat at Sheffield Wednesday and Addicks supporters can only hope that whatever he said will do some good today. Their task will not be an easy one, however, as Monday's visitors are Aston Villa, not only the current Premiership leaders but also a side hitting a rich vein of form against some of the division's toughest opponents.

Last Sunday's 3-2 home win over Double-winners Arsenal followed a draw with Manchester United, but was all the more impressive given that Villa were 2-0 down at half-time. The retrieval showed that John Gregory's men not only have the kind of flair demonstrated by Dion Dublin's nine goals in seven games for his new club, but also the kind of fighting spirit needed to wage a successful title campaign. Charlton are not an easy side to beat at home but they will not be relishing this fixture.

ament in training.

Radebe twisted his right knee in the 2-0



SPORT

O'LEARY'S YOUNG ONES P30 • BREWER TOAST OF THE TOWN P23



FA defends overseas help

AS THE Football Association yesterday sought to play down suggestions it had been attempting to "buy" the right to stage the 2006 World Cup, new details emerged about help given to countries who are represented on the 24-man comthe tournament will be held.

The FA admitted it was helping to pay the estimated England international, Peter Withe, now the coach of the Thai national side. Tawatchi Sajakun, the Thai national coach, said: "It is likely that Thaimuch appreciate the Football Association's support in send-

BY NICK HARRIS

Thailand is represented on

around to help us."

the executive committee of mittee which will decide where Fifa, world football's governing body, by Makudi Worawi, who holds one of the crucial 24 votes. Withe himself. speaking £100,000 salary of the former at the Asian Games, where he is preparing the Thai side for today's bronze medal play-off match against China, said: "It's nothing to do with me. I'm a soccer coach. That's what I am... land's FA will vote in support of I'm here to do a job, I'm not interested in the politics."

An FA spokesman said: "The FA has had these coaching ini-

tiatives, in dozens of countries, for years." He added that such help was not dependent on whether a country can help the English FA in some way. The 2006 campaign director, Alec McGivan, who is currently on bid business in Thailand, conceded, however, that "there has become an increased awareness of the needs of others" since the

The Independent revealed yesterday that the English campaign team had visited both Mali in West Africa and Trinidad - both represented on the 24-man Fifa committee - on the lobbying trail and either given or promised to give extensive assistance to both countries' FAs.

2006 campaign started.

Bhamjee, Botswana, who also has a vote, added yesterday that the English FA had given two refereeing workshops in his country in the last eight months and were looking at the possibility of persuading British companies to

Earlier this year Glenn Hoddle revealed in his World Cup diary that England's friendly in May against Saudi Arabia was arranged because McGivan was "keen on the Saudis as opponents". Saudi Arabia's Abdullah Al-Dabal is on Fifa's executive committee.

new headquarters.

McGivan said yesterday: "We are asking people to vote for us. What is more natural

of than for them to say Is there added it should never have come any way you can help us.' That's the real world."

Wolfgang Niersbach, spokesman for the German football federation, which is also preparing a 2006 bid, said he was surprised at the extent help build his association a of England's 2006 campaign. "Our surprise started the day after Euro 96 finished and the English said they would be making a bid for 2006," he said. adding the German campaign team would attend major international football exhibitions

> special assistance to nations with Fifa executives. The English bid was "professional", said Niersbach, but

for lobbying purposes but not target individual voters or offer

about because it had been agreed in the past that if England staged Euro 96, Germany would have English support for 2006. "The key point above all is the gentleman's agreement between [ex-FA chairman] Bert

Millichip and our president, who

did so much work for Euro 96." Meanwhile, Keith Wiseman, the FA chairman, yesterday defended the proposed gifts of £3.2m to the Football Association of Wales that led to the resignation of his chief executive Graham Kelly on Tuesday.

Bribery is basically where somebody is in the Bahamas with the money," Wiseman said. denying the proposed gifts had been agreed only on the condi-

tempt to become a Fifa vicepresident. He added that the FAW had been "prepared to ask their council to support England for that [the Fifa job] if we were able to consider offering them some help in their development programme. We're talking about a development programme for

Kelly resigned after a meeting of the FA executive committee, which also passed a unanimous vote of no-confidence in Wiseman, who said yesterday he saw no reason to resign and would fight his case. "I am simply exercising what I think is a perfectly proper and sensible right to have the matter taken back to the [FA] council."

Welsh schoolchildren."

Gregory resigns as **Pompey** chairman

BY NICK DUXBURY

MARTIN GREGORY, the man who instigated a cut-price sale of the entire playing squad at Portsmouth to tackle debts which have soared to £5m, yesterday quit the First Division club.

The 45-year-old Gregory has been the target of a campaign by Portsmouth fans attempting to force him to sell his shareholding.

"I'm not in a position now to say exactly what will happen to the chib in the future," said Gregory after resigning as chairman and director. "A furthe" announcement will be made on Monday." Pompey, seventh from bottom, visit Bolton today.

Two weeks ago, Gregory announced a bargam basement sale of his players. Coventry City were among several clubs quick to take advantage, snapping up the striker John Aloisi. who had scored 17 goals for Pompey this season, for £650,000. The Premiership club would have expected to pay double that amount under normal circumstances.

In a match televised na tionwide last Sunday, Portsmouth fans invaded the Fratton Park pitch at half-time and full-time to call for Gig gory's resignation.

Gregory took over as managing director of the club five years ago after his late father, Jim, fell ill. He became chairman in January this year when he resumed command at the Fratton Park following the brief reign of Terry Venables, the former England manager.

Last week, Gregory removed responsibility for player transfers from manager Alan Ball and appointed the showbusiness agent Athol & to oversee the buying and selling of players.

"We want to know who will ruming the citto no Mr Gregory has gone," Keith Waldon, Portsmouth's assistant manager, said.

"I can understand why he has done it and in some respects as the chairman he has brought some things on himself. I don't know who is going to run the club and we must ave some direction in these frou-



Timmy Murphy takes to his heels after being thrown by Majestic Storm in the Mac Vidi Novices' Chase at Lingfield yesterday

Racing, pages 24-25; Photograph: Julian Herbert/Allsport | bled times."

Wales plumb the depths of farce and chaos

IF ENGLISH rugby politics is generally a humour-free zone. the committee-room wrangling on the far side of the Severn Bridge has plumbed such unfathomable depths that the only sound to be heard is that of laughter in the darkness. Gareth Davies, the Cardiff chief club was fined £150,000, he said: executive, came out with a "I've been in some kangaroo classic one-liner yesterday courts in my time, but the only

RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWETT

when, during a colourful description of Thursday night's disciplinary hearing with the Welsh Rugby Union at which his

As a pithy summary of the state of the domestic game in Wales, it could hardly have been bettered. By slapping identical arbitrary fines on both Cardiff and Swansea - the other top side currently engaged in a programme of unsanctioned rebel fixtures against the lead-

thing missing from this one was ing English Premiership clubs Rolf Harris." ing English Premiership clubs – the WRU has revealed the inthe WRU has revealed the inherent weakness of its own position. The union would far rather have expelled its two refuseniks, but knew it would be playing into their hands to do so. If Cardiff and Swansea suddenly found themselves free agents, they would throw an immediate party.

The chances of either club actually paying the fine are about as remote as their deciding to sign up the WRU's loyalty agreement, the imposition of which led to their breakaway in the first place. "I can only think that the union decided on the fines in an effort to escape censure from the International Board. which wants to see us punished for playing these games against the English," said Davies. "It's no coincidence that we were fined less than 24 hours before the WRU was scheduled to go before the

board's disciplinary panel." These latest developments leave the game in Wales in a state of advanced chaos. On the one hand, the union wants to create four so-called "super clubs" as a means of raising playing standards; on the other, it has just punished the two clubs with the strongest claims to "super" status. Indeed, Cardiff were said last night to be reconsidering their formal bid for one of the four franchises on offer.

Even more shambolically, it was still not clear yesterday whether Cardiff remained in this season's Swalec Cup, even though they were scheduled to play Llandovery this afternoon. Cardiff insisted building work on the new Millennium Stadium had rendered their own Arms Park venue unplayable and offered Llandovery a series of midweek dates. Their opponents, meanwhile, said the several farmworkers amongst their squad could play only at a weekend and offered to stage the attempt.

match at their own ground - an offer Cardiff abruptly rejected.

Meanwhile, the English clubs could not resist having their say on matters Welsh. "We believe that the aggressive action of the WRU in fining Cardiff and Swansea is extremely unnecessary and particularly unhelpful at a time when talks are being held to resolve rugby in the northern hemisphere for the ultimate benefit of all," said Howard Thomas, the acting chief executive of English First Division

Bristol, the Premiership Two title challengers, have suspended David Knox, their Australian outside-half, for 30 days and fined him £5,000 following his dismissal in last Sunday's important match at Worcester. Knox, a former Wallaby standoff who started his Test career in 1985 and completed it only a year ago, was sent off for dissent after just 20 minutes of a game his side went on to lose 20-9.

His club ban runs from December 13 to January 12 inclusive, while the £5,000 will be donated to the charity SPIRE, which supports rugby players who have suffered serious neck

Knox appeared before a club disciplinary panel earlier this week, which was then adjourned while he sought legal advice. He is among several overseas signings made by sure that Bristol regain Premiership One status at the first



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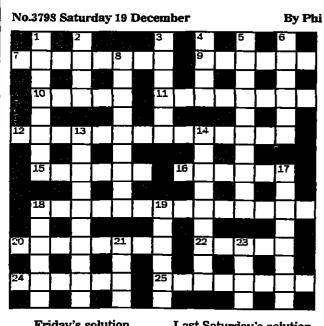
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THE SATURDAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

Test for roadworthiness before drivers' organisation rejected vehicle (5-

Man runs after taking in hard composer (6) Dance? Curious dance, half unfinished (5)

11 Run gala hadly (run in a particular form) (8) 12 Arrange reinstatement engaging Henry as ordi-nary worker (3,2,3,6) Particular dock? (6) 16 Spirit or passion pos-

sessing one (6)
18 No - practice isn't out of 8 20 Promoting health - for turning plague carrier in

22 German writer embraced by duchesses (5) 24 Lose sight after 'cutting' fairy creature (6) 25 Oné quivers in fear

cheeky ripostes) (8)

DOWN

Many people receiving nothing will be upset in a prosperous period (4) A capital price leading to complaint? (6) Some of them may seem to be female (4) Timeless archaic tune

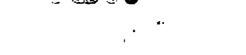
possibly associated with an ancient writer (10) Fussy type shut up about American lawyer Actors and what one of them might say about love - it gives an edge to things! (9)

trings: (9)
13 Not concrete, enabling it to be demolished (10)
14 Polluted quantity of water I got rid of (9)
17 Panic and rioting this

year (8)
18 What artist may use in study involving light (6)
19 Test score not allowed (3-3) 21 Relative to visit as a ghost, headless (4) 23 Second boat for the is-

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4018, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: C Ellis, Newport: S Pountain, Southall; L Hadfield. Boughton; H Walker, SW1; C Green, Old Sodbury.

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THE WORLD'S PEACEMAKE HESCIENC TABOUT MSHLEFOE? OUNTRY, PAGE 17 FRAVEL, PAGE



A sorry business

With his unprecedented apology in 1992 for the silencing of Galileo, Pope John Paul II began his noble project of making amends for the Church's mistakes. But can he really say sorry for the Inquisition's centuries of terror and torture?

nly in a don's study in its constraint on freedom, its intellectual tyrangiven your tea in a mug commemorating a scholemblazoned with the Latin tag frustra fit per plura quod potest fieri per pauciora. In philosophy this saw goes by the name of Occam's razor, after William of Occam. Loosely translated it means: "Don't look for complicated explanrations when a simple one will do."

THE INDEPENDING

Gregon

resigns

Pompe

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I decided to apply it to the question in hand, which was: why are so many apologies flooding where files from the Seventies and Eighties sat out of the Vatican at present? The academic to whom my query was addressed, Dr Eamon Duffy, reader in church history and fellow of Magdalene College, should know. He has just returned from Rome where he was part of a private team of eminent historians called in to advise on the latest papal attempt to make amends.

It all began in 1992 when Pope John Paul II finally admitted the Church had been wrong 349 years earlier to silence Galileo for saying that the Earth moved round the Sun. Next he apologised for the St Bartholomew's Day Massacre, when more than 5,000 Protestants were murdered in 16th-century France. Then came contrition for the Church's role in persecuting the Jews – from the Dark Ages to the Holocaust. His International Theological Commission has completed the first draft of a 35-page apology for the Crusades. A commission has been set up to consider whether pardons should be granted to people burnt at the stake as witches in Bohemia in the 17th century. And now Dr Duffy and 40 others have begun laying the groundwork for an apology for the entire Inquisition.

This will be the big one. After all, the Church can claim that its culpability in the Holocaust was limited to acts of omission. But with the Inquisition it was, as the Pope has put it, "the sons and daughters of the Church" who turned the thumbscrews and lit the pyres.

The very term has become a byword for despotic terror and narrow cruelty - images, in the words of the poet Tennyson, of "Inquisition dogs and devildom of Spain". After the Enlightenment the words became a shorthand for to say: "People were sent to the stake, but not what secular liberalism hated in the church - in the large numbers that are bandled around." charged with it dragged his feet and was rep-

Cambridge would you be ny, its obscurantism and (in its condemnation of Galileo) its hostility to science.

Such are the verdicts of poetry and politics, astic philosopher. It was but what does history say? The recent gathering of the historians of the Inquisition came some 10 months after the Vatican had opened its archives on the subject for the first time. More than 4,000 volumes had remained secret, some of them for 700 years. Eamon Duffy was one of a small team allowed to tour the 27 rooms of dusty wooden shelves, on which the crumbling, vellum-bound volumes are stacked.

"It was rather weird to pass along corridors cheek by jowl with stuff from the 17th century." he said. "But, of course, we were not allowed to look at anything more recent than 1903 [when the current century's persecution of modernist Catholics was begun by Pope Pius XI."

The Inquisition was introduced as long ago as 1184, under Pope Lucius III, to track down and quash heresy. But it was in 1233 that his suc-

Cambridge, who feared that a whitewash was on display at St Paul's Cross in an attempt imminent, insisted that somewhere between 1 million and 10 million had perished in the 600year Catholic onslaught against heretics. The Pope would select only malleable historians, he warned. And in any case two-thirds of the Vatican records had been lost when Napoleon plundered the archive in 1810.

Interestingly, most historians are impatient with these objections. Tedeschi did much of his research not at the Vatican but in Trinity College, Dublin, and concluded that much of the black legend is a calumny from Protestant propagandists. Nor can all those holding this view be dismissed as Catholic apologists. The new edition of Anglicanism's magisterial reference book, Cross's Dictionary of the Christian Church, has recently pronounced that Inquisitorial courts were, even in Spain, "more benign than secular courts of the period". And the Protestant historian William Monter, of Northwestern University, reckons that the Roman In-

BY PAUL VALLELY

cessor Gregory IX first appointed full-time Inquisitors, drawn from the Dominican and Franciscan orders, to track down heretics who moved swiftly across diocesan boundaries before local bishops could act against them. It was given extensive powers of judgement and could arrest suspects on the testimony of just two anonymous witnesses. In 1252 Pope Innocent IV sanctioned the use of torture to uncover "the truth". Over the centuries that followed, the Inquisition, in its medieval, Spanish and then Roman variants, resulted in thousands of Europeans dying by fire or torture.

When the opening of the archives on all this was announced, many were suspicious of the Vatican's motives - particularly after spokesmen for the Pope announced that the records showed the numbers killed to be far lower than was popularly believed. Rome presented one of the most distinguished of the researchers. Professor John Tedeschi of the University of Wisconsin.

quisition (1541-1590) killed 1,235 people across Europe, compared with 1,500 executed for heresy by the secular authorities in the preceding 20 years. Some 2,000 more died at the hands of the Spanish Inquisition.

Duffy, "but then so was the behaviour of authority in general." He cautions against the tendency to dehistoricise the Inquisition and see it from the standpoint of our own time.

At the time, church and state were so closely linked that heresy was seen as a form of treason. The impact of the Inquisition was determined by the interests of secular authority. The government in Venice curbed it; the monarchy in Spain exploited it to seize the lands of Jews and Muslims in an epidemic of ethnic cleansing.

"It was an emperor, Frederick II, (rather than a cleric], who 'routinised' the penalty of burning people alive. In England it was Queen Mary who ordered the most concentrated spate of persecution in 16th-century Europe – the bishop

Those, like John Cornwell of Jesus College, rimanded by the Queen in a letter which he pu pass the blame and show he was only obeying orders," said Dr Duffy. "Some 72 Protestan were killed by the Inquisition in Italy through out the whole of 16th century, but 273 we burned in three years by Mary Tudor."

The Inquisition proper never really took England. Clerics and laity alike there had b come too attached to common-law procedur such as trial by jury to be happy introducing the practices of Roman imperial law on which canon law is based. The Inquisition's secred its eagerness to accept denunciations, th absence of counsel for the accused, the lack any right to confront hostile witnesses, a seemed alien. The two French inquisitors ser to conduct the proceedings against the Knight Templar in 1309 complained bitterly of the lac of qualified torturers in England.

Yet even if all this is not on the scale that received wisdom dictates, it is still bad enough Why has Rome waited until now to consider and ogising? The answer was given to the asserbled historians by the Pope's persons theologian, Fr George Cottier. The year 200 which ushers in the new millennium, should h a year of jubilee. The tradition of jubilee bega in ancient Israel. It was a year when the eart was left fallow, debts were cancelled and slave were set free. It was a time to be reconciled Throughout its history the Church has main tained this tradition in small ways, but a new "What the church did was repellent," said Dr millennium must be a Great Jubilee and preparation there must be a great repentance "of past errors and instances of infidelity, in consistency and slowness to act".

But Dr Duffy and the other eminent histo rians of the period were only the first step. "A ter we had left the Vatican the dozen theologian who had listened as we presented our paper met again, on their own, to decide what to reommend," he said.

To an outsider it may seem obvious. Before the historical experts departed, one of them, th Jewish historian Carlo Ginsburg, made a dev astating intervention from the floor, in which h suggested that any talk of asking for pardon fo the past was unreal: the dead could not forgive The Pope and the Church should rather say the Continued on page

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TOMORROW IN THE INDEPENDENT **ON SUNDAY**

REVIEW



Resurrection at Assisi: one year after the earthquake



Everything you ever wanted to know about the 'Nutcracker'

REAL LIFE



Living soberly: my first Christmas on the wagon



A slacker's guide to last-minute shopping

PLUS People of the Year as voted by our readers



Christmas Workers No 6: the tree farmer, on a plantation at Christmas Common in the Chilterns

Tom Pilston

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

End Iraq's agony

Sir: We wish to express our grave concern at the bombing of Iraq. We are totally opposed to the dictatorial regime of Saddam Hussein and have always supported peaceful means to eliminate his weapons of mass destruction. However, any air campaign will surely not remove him or end his chemical and biological weapons production.

Saddam is definitely a threat to his people and world peace, but this military action will not end the threat posed by him. It will more likely strengthen Saddam, who thrives on such confrontations, and put an end to Unscom's work. Moreover, the longer UN sanctions remain in force and the more military strikes are undertaken, the greater the

suffering of ordinary Iraqis will be. Sanctions do not and will not work Taunton, Somerset when the regime in power is a ruthless dictatorship not accountable to its people. It cannot be right to stand aside, watching the suffering of the Iraqi people caused by sanctions and bombing, until Saddam complies fully with Security Council resolutions.

New thinking on the Iraq crisis is needed. It appears that the present approach can only prolong the state of instability in the region and the misery of the Iraqi people. We urge the US and Britain to adopt a new strategy aimed at helping the Iraqi people to induce real change in Iraq and the establishment of a true democratic regime.

This strategy should be based on supporting alternatives to Saddam, no more punishment for the Iraqi people, implementation of UNSC Resolution 688, diplomatic isolation of the Iraqi regime in the region and the world community and the indictment of Saddam for his crimes against humanity. We firmly believe that the long-term interest of all interested parties will be better served in a democratic Iraq.

Dr M AL-RUBEAI Dt N AL-SHADIR Dr S JASIM Dr A RIDHA Dr S LATEEF Dr A HUNOUSH Dr S ABDUL-RAZZAK Dr J KASSAB Woodford Green. Essex The signatories are Iraqi academics living in Britain

Sir: Reading those near-hysterical letters (18 December) concerning the bombing of Iraq's armamentmaking capacity, have those writers forgotten (or perhaps not even read about) the results of this country's appeasement policy and head-in-thesand approach to Germany's rearmament in the 1930s?

There was more logic then in our inaction, however reprehensible we were unready, ill-armed and knowledge of what was happening to the Jews and gypsies was largely unknown. The result was that Germany gobbled up its surrounding countries and purged itself of Jews and gypsies - something that took years and many lives to put right.

Today everyone knows about the Kurds and the marsh Arabs, and Iraq's neighbours must be feeling a trifle uneasy, so perhaps those Independent readers might consider the past before condemning the present out of hand. DERRICK WARREN

Sir: Mr Blair made a first-class speech in Parliament to explain why we and the Americans were reluctantly taking military action to rid the world of a great evil. It reminded me of that day in 1939 when we reluctantly began one of the few just wars in all history to rid Europe of another great evil, an aim eventually achieved with the help of the Americans.

How few of our so-called partners in the European Union have declared their support for an action so completely justified. The irony is that Mr Blair is trying desperately to subordinate our ancient country to a new conglomerate which plans to take control of our finances, our legal system, our borders, our defences and our foreign policy. What action would Mr Blair have been allowed to take if our foreign policy were decided (if that's the word) by a committee in Brussels? M C M BLACKBURN Thames Ditton. Surrey

Sir: You state that "sanctions do not stop [Saddam Hussein] buying food and medical supplies for his people (leading article, 18 December). This is a line we have heard ad nouseam from Tony Blair and Robin Cook. It is a complete lie.

Whilst technically food and medicines are not subject to sanctions (although many requests for medical supplies have been vetoed by the UN Sanctions Committee), the inadequacy of the oil-for-food deal means that Iraq has no money to buy these items. Of the supposed \$10bn a year available through the deal for humanitarian

relief, over 30 per cent is diverted by the UN to non-humanitarian uses. Beyond this, the fall in oil prices coupled with the lack of spare parts for the oil industry means that the projected oil revenue is actually around \$4.4bn - less than half what

our government claims, and

nowhere near what is needed. Having been to Iraq recently, I can testify that children are starving. people are drinking water contaminated with sewage, and that the sanctions regime has reduced a healthy, well-fed nation to ruins.

Sanctions are a weapon just as devastating as bombs. Both are illegal and immoral. ANDREA NEEDHAM London, E2

Sir. It would be for the good of the Iraqi population if Saddam were brought down. Campaigns against repression and for democracy in Iraq have argued this for many years. But it was the US and the UK who armed him - over all those years. It was the US and the UK who failed to support opposition movements within Iraq. It was the US and the UK whose missiles and threats and sanctions have kept him in power while the people starve.

We should all be asking: How will this bombing disarm Saddam? JOHN NICHOLSON

Sir: Are we going to erect a cenotaph in memory of all the civilian Iragis whose blood has saved us from the reported threat of Saddam's weapons of mass destruction? JOHN ATHANASIOU London N9

'Bias' on the bench

Sir: Calls for Lord Hoffmann's resignation are another depressing indication of the blame-and-shame culture which permeates life in the UK. A vibrant, open society warmly accepts occasional errors of judgement even (indeed especially) from the most talented; if the best judges can stumble on the pedestal without falling then the rest may rejoice in errors as a sign of dynamism. STEVEN FOGEL London EC4

Sir: Should judges with connections to Christian churches be disbarred from cases where the defendant is accused of doing evil? Should judges who believe fervently in the importance of morality be disbarred from cases where the defendant is accused of immoral behaviour? Lord Hoffmann's association with Amnesty should qualify rather than disqualify him from sitting in judgement on Pinochet. When our country has just killed

25 Iraqi civilians (apparently) and terrified millions (certainly), Lord Hoffmann's stand for justice was like a light that gave hope. His colleagues have just snuffed it out. Dr MICHAEL de PODESTA Teddington, Middlesex

Sir: So, membership of or support for a society like Amnesty might cause a judge to be biased, but membership of a Masonic order is acceptable? NOANIE HEFFRON

Power to the bishops

Sir: Are you suggesting that there should be no mechanism for dismissing churchwardens who fail in their office ("The bishops don"t need more power", leading article, 16 December)?

One of my churchwardens embezzled a large sum of money last year. Under charity law, his conviction disqualified him from sitting on the Parochial Church Council. But not from being a churchwarden. There was no means by which he could be required to resign. Nor was there any way he could be suspended from office, pending his appearance in court.

Churchwardens are elected by the laity as a whole (not by the Parochial Church Council). But if they let their electors down, somebody needs to protect the laity's interests. The Rev SIMON TATTON-BROWN

Westhoughton, Greater Manchester

Chernobyl children

Sir: I would like to take this opportunity to thank Darius Sanai and The Independent Magazine for the article about the Chernobyl children published on 5 December.

There has been a great response by Independent readers who have offered to host children in their homes. Needless to say, all applicants must be vetted first by

social services and the police. I have spoken to many readers who phoned and clearly they were very touched by the report on the suffering of these children, forgotten by the EU governments which have

given so little help to Belarus. I would like to correct some misunderstandings. Belavia Airlines do not give the charity free flights. The cost is £200 and £20 airport tax per person, costing the charity £450,000 per annum and £50,000 for airport tax. The children come for a period of one month, not two months.

to improve their health. To add to the Chernobyl problem, Belarus is suffering an economic crisis with the collapse of the Belarussian rouble. In every household I visited, children were pale, coughing and sneezing.

At the moment there are 180 children spending Christmas and the New Year in the UK. All those who have already arrived are underweight for their age because of the grave shortage of food in Belarus. This is only the start of the

winter season.
I have visited many regions of Belarus and all the parents of the children that have come to the UK ask me to thank the British people for their generosity. Words cannot express how grateful they are. Every parent remarked on their child's health transformation for the better VICTOR E MIZZI Chairman/Trustee

Chernobyl Children Life Line Haslemere, Surrey

IN BRIEF

Sir: You report two compensatory payouts on 15 December. In one case, a traumatised police sergeant was awarded £75,000 for seeing his fiancée injured in a road accident at work. In the other, a disabled 81-year-old woman was violently sexually assaulted on more than one occasion by another resident in her care home before preventative measures were put in place. She was awarded £2,500. Good to see justice being done, isn't it? NEIL DUNCAN Telford, Shropshire

Sir: I was surprised to see Martin Jacques (Wednesday Review, 16 December) refer to a "popular apocryphal tale" of a Chinese emperor who rebuffed a European monarch's invitation to trade. In fact it was the Chinese Emperor Ch'ien-Lung who wrote to none other than King George III in 1793: "Strange and costly objects do not interest me.

... As your ambassador can see for himself, we possess all things. I set no value on objects strange or ingenious, and have no use for your country's manufactures." KATHERINE TANKO

Will the Pope apologise for the Inquisition?

Continued from page 1 are ashamed of the past without asking

Things are more tricky than that for the pontiff, however, thanks to the concept of infallibility. This has two aspects. The commonly understood one is that the Pope claims he speaks infallibly when he pronounces, ex cathedra, some definitive doctrine pertaining to faith or morals. But the Church also claims there is an infallibility which is revealed through what it calls "the ordinary magisterium", the collective wisdom of its bishops.

could the Church have been wrong in without further fracturing its authority?

teaching for 1,500 years that "error has no rights"? It is a particular poser for Pope John Paul II, for he was a key player in drafting the Second Vatican Council's 1965 Declaration on Religious Liberty which overturned the old teaching: the demand for freedom of conscience had been a precious resource for him in his confrontation with Polish communism.

Those, like Archbishop Lefebvre, who could not accept that 1,000 years of consistent Catholic teaching had been mistaken, were so outraged that they broke with Rome. So how can the Pope now The conundrum, therefore, is this: how admit Rome was wrong on the Inquisition

rigues traced the emergence of the Augustine. The fatal moment came, he said, when the great fourth-century theologian misconstrued a phrase from the Gospel parable of the wedding feast and decided that the words "compel them to come in" legitimised the use of force in religion. This Augustinian approach then entered politics, with disastrous results.

But Garrigues went on to make a dishinted at Significantly, John Paul II has spoken not of the need for the Church to eccentric women to be burnt alive; an

One of the Pope's men had a go, at the conference in Rome. Fr Jean-Miguel Gardaughters of the church" to do so, as if the Institution itself bore no blame. Gar-Church's bullying mentality back to St rigues then suggested that the Inquisition was the result of the personal moral failure of individuals. The doctrinal magisterium had been silent on the issue, thus the Church's authority was unscathed.

Eamon Duffy and the other historians were unimpressed. Consider the weight of the history - a succession of inquisitions, under several popes; a buil on witchcraft giving papal endorsement to a tinction which the Pope had already ragbag of superstitions that caused countless thousands of harmless or

index of forbidden books; a uniform practice of repression and censorship at the heart of the Church's own governance; and its endorsement of a particular rela-

"It can hardly be treated as the incidental activity of some of the Church's children." Occam's razor might suggest a simpler explanation. "The bald fact is that Roman theology has simply not yet found a way of admitting that the institutional Church itself can err and sin."

absence at the conference. There was no

sign of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the pre-fect for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith - as the body which was once

that any apology for the terrors of the Inquisition will have rather a hollow ring.

the Inquisition is now known. tionship between church and state. This latter-day Grand Inquisitor may "All this surely constitutes more than silence," said Dr Duffy, rather scathingly. not have recourse to the thumbscrews but his present-day interrogation of Catholic dissidents still carries echoes of the old ways. Hearings are in camera. Accusers remain anonymous. There is no defence council. The accused is initially not even told the specific charges against him, and cannot call witnesses in his defence. Until all that changes, it may well he There was one man noticeable by his

*THE INDEPENDENT

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A gesture to peace that should be followed by others

YESTERDAY'S GESTURE by the Loyalist Volunteer Force is a good answer to all those doom-mongers and pessimists who have gathered around the Northern Ireland peace process. Voices have been raised - ever since John Hume, John Major and others began the process to say that it could not work, would not work, and should not be attempted. Such voices will probably be heard to deride yesterday's events. But the first decommissioning in Northern Ireland's recent sectarian tragedy is a milestone that should not be underestimated.

The LVF is not an organisation on the scale of the Ulster Defence Association and its offshoots, nor does it have the same capacity to maim and kill as the IRA. But it does constitute a real and potent threat to law and order in the province, responsible for punishment beatings and shootings of Catholics. It has handed in only a small quantity of guns and explosive detonators; but its gesture is a powerful one none the less. It shows what can be done. No one committed to an unending war, or despairing of peace, would do such a thing.

It is also a welcome affirmation of what can be gained from negotiation. The handing-in of the guns follows agreement on the shape of Northern Ireland's government. for so many weeks a frustratingly close compromise. It is this part of the Good Friday agreement which locks Northern Ireland's parties to each other.

None of Northern Ireland's parties can gain what they want without the others. Nationalists cannot gain crossborder bodies, linking their fate with that of the Republic, without the agreement of an assembly and executive on which non-nationalists hold a majority. Unionists cannot gain a new Stormont Assembly without agreeing to share power, and to set up such cross-border bodies. The agreement makes it clear that without fulfilment of all its clauses, the others fall too. It was this that the politicians recognised yesterday.

Most of those politicians have at least a line of communication open to armed groups. Their leadership is crucial if more arms are to be decommissioned, and yesterday they showed that leadership. Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and the party leaders who have agreed on those Cabinet seats and crossborder bodies, are to be congratulated.

But, welcome as the LVF's action is, one terrorist decommissioning does not mark the end of a 30-year conflict. Many obstacles still lie ahead. Most formidably, the IRA will have to make a gesture on at least the scale of the LVF's if it is to be admitted to the government of Northern Ireland.

David Trimble, First Minister of the shadow executive, has made it quite clear that if this does not take place, there can be no further progress. He cannot go back on the cast-iron assurances he has given to the Unionist members of the Assembly, and to his own party members. To do so would mean political extinction at the hands of Orange extremists all too ready and willing to wreck negotiations that they have never wanted.

Sinn Fein's role will be pivotal. It has made many compromises to get this far, and has played a positive role again in the last few days. But the party maintains that it can only "influence" the IRA, and will use whatever influence it ras to secure decommissioning only once the Assembly executive are working. It can maintain the fiction of



an arms-length relationship with the IRA, if it smoothes its task. But it cannot escape its responsibilities.

It is true that even though the Good Friday agreement envisages decommissioning within two years, nowhere stop impeachment does it make explicit that this should take place before the Assembly and executive are constituted. But it should make no difference, if the will is there, when weapons are handed in. Indeed, a limited hand-over would be in Sinn Fein's best interests. They could take their seats in the executive: they would gain immeasurable goodwill in Dublin, Washington and London; they could start to shape the future of their province.

The IRA do not even need to start large-scale destruction or abandonment of weapons to gain this advantage for their political friends. All they need to do is to show that they understand the fears of their Unionist fellow citizens, and their British and Irish neighbours. All they need to do is to hand in one package of arms from their vast cache, to show that they mean it. When they see the beneficial results of that, we can hope that such actions will become a habit.

No one wants to see republicanism humiliated in "surrender". But what we have a right to expect is that all paramilitaries, including the Provisional IRA, emulate the gesture their opponents have made, and soon.

Bombs shouldn't

THERE IS never a good time to impeach a US president, since the so-called head of the free world is always busy striving to pacify some world trouble-spot. It must seem particularly cruel to Bill Clinton that he faces trial at exactly the same time as he is ordering troops into battle; but to be realistic, when has he been free of such troubles? When he was ordering marines into Somalia? When he was making peace in Northern Ireland? Or on the previous occasions when he has bombed Iraq?

regard to the crises their nations face. Andrew Johnson, the only other president to be impeached, was struggling with the challenge of reconstruction after the American Civil War. Democrats showed no mercy to Richard Nixon, embroiled in Vietnam, opening up Western policy to China, and attempting detente with the Soviet Union. Closer to home, Margaret Thatcher was preparing for the Gulf war when she was politically assassinated.

Bombing in the Gulf makes no difference to the issues facing Congress. Either the President has perjured himself, and committed the "high crimes and misdemeanors" of which the Constitution speaks, or he has not.

The world's cynicism about the President's motives in ordering military action should encourage a decision. The impeachment vote may bring the crisis to a head, and renew America's self-confidence. If Congress decides today to allow President Clinton to escape, he can face the world with his mandate renewed. But if he is impeached, his authority will be irreparably damaged. Then, for all our sakes, he should resign, and allow a successor to govern with authority.

Gone shopping

PLANS TO "reward" those informing on drink-drivers will raise a ragged cheer in populist quarters. Wiser and cooler heads should be more wary. Given Britain's problem of "neighbour rage", which this week saw even a former Downing Street press secretary cautioned by police, it is more than likely that giving money to sneaks would lead to a rash of hoax calls, like that which recently afflicted the Deputy Prime Minister in his Hull constituency. Forget the nation of shopkeepers: we seem all too eager to become a nation of shoppers.

Cruise missiles won't stop the dangers facing US democracy

ER IN the history of the United States has there been a moment like Reagan administration unravel in the this. A president, fighting impeachment, has decided simultaneously to the politicians in Washington so angry start a war. The House of Representatives patriotically supports the troops while attempting to remove from office their commander-in-chief. of Representatives does have a prece-And the man Republicans regard as an untrustworthy draft-dodger has control of the mightiest military machine in the world.

Americans are open-mouthed with ewilderment and concern at the bizarre collision of events. The two problems which have dogged the US throughout the 1990s like toothache the implacable hostility of Iraq and the sistently scandal-ridden behav-tour of its president - have crashed together the week before Christmas.

Citing a "clear and present danger". President Clinton is risking the lives of American servicemen at precisely the time his own political life is most under threat. Forever lucky in his enemies, Mr Clinton's highly partisan opponents are redoubling their efforts to get the world to recognise he is the liar-in-chief, adulterer-in-chief and perjurer-extraordinaire.

Perhaps we should have become used to expecting the impossible. After all, this is a year which began with the revelation that Bill Clinton had oral sex with a 21-year-old intern, but so far has claimed as the biggest political casualty not Mr Clinton but his most outspoken opponent, the sacked House Speaker Newt Gingrich. Gingrich's successor as Speaker, Bob Livingston, has now been forced to admit to adulterous affairs, though he

will t resign. As someone who has ton first began to run for the presi- began with a clash of cultures with the

Iran-Contra affair, I have never seen with each other or so disconnected from the American people.

Today's expected vote in the House dent. It is the first impeachment since the presidency of Andrew Johnson in 1868, but the domestic drama is now inextricably linked, as Johnson's never was, to an attempt to destroy a foreign leader and reassert American authority in a military adventure. Both Mr Clinton and his political enemies have embarked on breathtakingly risky courses of action without any kind of road-map for how to proceed.

Most Americans regard taking on Saddam Hussein as justified and inevitable. But the timing, as Lawrence Eagleburger, the former Secretary of State, puts it, "smells to high heaven". Of all the hats a president must wear, the one of commander-in-chief has never quite fitted Clinton. For him to assume significant military leadership in the twilight of his presidency is truly extraordinary.

Beyond draft avoidance in Vietnam, everything about the Clinton administration has seemed unmilitary in character, profoundly different from Bush, Reagan or Carter. Most obviously, Clinton is the first president of a new generation, a man whose formative years were not spent in World War Two. While the Bush White House was full of military veterans. President Clinton's team is more like a university common room in which those with military experience are

conspicuous by their rarity. The first week of his administration



GAVIN ESLER The collision of war and scandal begs a question: why does this great nation

have such shabby leaders? military brass over whether to allow homosexuals to serve in uniform. But whatever their doubts about the character of the commander-in-chief, American servicemen have loyally served him. Ever since the Gulf war ended eight years ago, facing down Saddam Hussein has been America's

diplomatic Groundhog Day, the Hol-

lywood movie in which every morning

you wake up to the same problems. With the exception of 1995, there has been a US-Iraq crisis every year since 1990. Two weeks ago a senior Clinton administration official told me to expect another confrontation. He warned that the US would show itself to be on an extremely short fuse. This official, one of a handful who direct national security policy, refused to predict the timing, but agreed that the crisis could come before Christmas. The official said Clinton only decided against bombing Baghdad in November because "you do not shoot a man who has his hands up". But the official

sion of the UN weapons inspectors was now than the damaged credibility of doomed and that the US would be the American system of government, forced to try to do with bombs what the UN had failed to do by inspections namely degrade Saddam's military capacity. He acknowledged that the American people were tired of perennial High Noon confrontations and wanted the Saddam problem sorted out for good.

What strikes me now as curious about this conversation is that the Clinton official was prepared to brief me, a foreign journalist, extensively, while the president himself failed to prepare the American people. Surprising Saddam is one thing. Surprising America's voters, allies and world opinion is another and adds to the suspicion that this has been partly the War of Clinton's Zipper. Around one in four Americans shares this view, suspecting that the President may have abused his power by ordering the military strike to distract from the impeachment hearings, less a matter of policy than of crude politics.

After all, Clinton did order cruise missile attacks against Sudan and Afghanistan last August, just days after the humiliation of admitting that he had lied for months about Monica Lewinsky. This week's attack may be coincidence too far. But the far more significant point is that Clinton's lack of credibility is now so damaging that it is impossible to view anything he does except through the prism of his scandals. He could feed the five thousand with a few loaves and fishes and yet a large percentage of Americans would view the miracle as another cynical stunt from their political Houdini. His own survival -

now than the damaged credibility of if impeachment proceedings stretch for months into 1999.

America's democracy is resilient. The republic has survived the Civil War and civil rights, the surprise attack on Pearl Harbour and being torn apart by Vietnam. Americans endured the national tragedy of Watergate. They will surely endure the national farce of the Lewinsky scandal. For Nixon it was once a profoundly serious question of what did the President know and when did he know it. For many Americans that has been replaced by the Clinton question of what did the President touch and when did he touch it.

But the collision of war and scandal has now gone to the core of the American political dilemma as the new millennium approaches. Why has America endured 40 years of failed presidencies, a string of one-term inadequates punctuated by the twoterm scandal presidencies of Nixon, Reagan and Clinton? Why does this great democracy produce such shabby leaders? Why does the United States export political ideas abroad and yet see fewer and fewer of its own citizens

bother to vote at home? The twilight of the Clinton presidency may not provide the answers to what has gone wrong. But it does provide a clear example. And you can be sure it will prove easier to solve the Saddam problem than the sclerosis within the American political system. The mess in Washington remains the clear and present danger that cruise missiles cannot fix.

which still looks likely but is by no Gavin Esler is the author of 'The also predicted, correctly, that the mis- means guaranteed - is of less interest United States of Anger

¥THE INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPH



by David Ashdown

Ref. 00111

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

The bombing of Iraq • Impeachment of Bill Clinton • Lord Hoffmann • Pension reform • The Football Association

IMPEACHMENT OF BILL CLINTON

Opinions on whether the President's conduct merits his removal by the Congress of the United States

USA TODAY

IF THERE is a silver lining to such an ethically clouded climate, it is that the Founders fully expected such antics and designed the impeachment system accordingly. They gave the House only the power to accuse, leaving the Senate responsibility for removing the President from office, and then only by a vote that requires a broad consensus. If Clinton is impeached, a nation turned off by cheap partisanship - from both sides deserves no less.

FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU

AN IMPEACHMENT charge before the United States Senate would therefore touch the very core of democracy: the fall of a president even when it is comes constitutionally and formally secured represents the annulment of the voted will of the people. Such a step can only be justified by grievous practices such as endangering democracy, the state order, or national security

NEW YORK TIMES

MR CLINTON'S offenses threaten us with the possibility that Americans will see him as a role model. They cry out for condemnation so that no citizen will be tempted to follow his example or regret his departure... but do not threaten the future of a republic that defines itself through politics. We elected him to lead a great nation. He became a prince of disorder. Now it is up to Congress and the public to limit the damage caused by his irresponsibility.

TAGES-ANZEIGEROS Switzerland

AMERICANS TEND to take things to the limits and live excess to the full. In their eyes, no political mistake is too great for the right way acts. The Dow may melt in the out to be at the end of the tunnel. As a result, Washington's politicians the Senate will devote itself to can see nothing funny in the fact adding a new chapter to the Kama hundreds of them have spent 11 Sutra. Is this for real?

months obsessed with a sex scandal in the White House. Quite the opposite: the lawmakers. lawyers, professors and commentators involved see it as their sacred duty to take part in the search for truth in the "William Jefferson Clinton" case. Meanwhile, the rest of the world worries about the US President's authority.

BOSTON GLOBE

WHAT CLINTON deserves and what the country needs is not a symbolic rebuke from which he will bounce back unscratched. There is only a momentary sting in being censured; imneachment will sting through history. Clinton has lied and deceived. It is fitting that his lies and deceit be the cause, finally, of his fall. A president who violates the people's trust and dishonors his office forfeits his right to the White House. The words are those of the Democrats' proposed resolution of censure. But they sum up perfectly the case for impeachment.

DAILY OKLAHOMAN

THE RULE of law should apply to everyone, including this corrupt, unethical president. For high crimes and misdemeanors, the House of Representatives should impeach Clinton. The Senate will determine whether he can continue in office.

STRAITS TIMES Singapore

BARRING A last-minute deal, it looks like the US is about to condemn itself to a Senate trial that may last as long as six months. As the world tries desperately to avoid an economic slump, its sole remaining superpower will treat itself to a semen-stained dress, scratchy tape-recordings of two not particularly brainy women and grainy video clips of the "Big Creep" squirming in his seat as he parses impenetrable definitions of sexual meantime, the dollar may sink, but

Was this attack necessary?

JORDAN TIMES

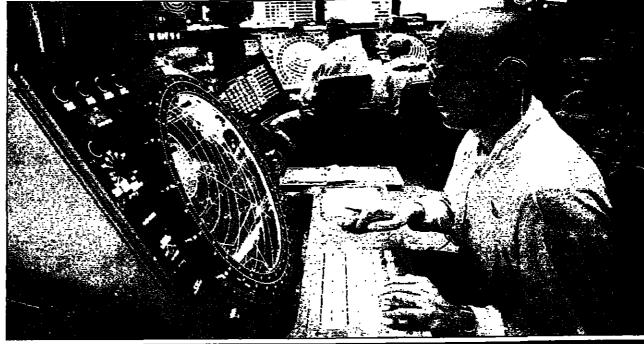
WHY WAS such military action necessary now or, more to the point, necessary at all? The fact of the matter is this: after almost eight years of sanctions and inspections, Saddam Hussein is still in power. The US and Britain, so they say, believe that Iraq still has the capability of assembling weapons of mass destruction. Over 1 million people – mostly children – against whom no one held any grudge, are dead. When does it end? US officials last night could offer us no assurances, while commentators last night expressed surprise that Iraqi people were moving around Baghdad during the attack. It shouldn't come as a surprise - after all, they are the only ones who have had to endure the last eight years.

HONG KONG STANDARD China

CLINTON'S CRITICS would like to think that the strike against Iraq was a diversionary tactic to postpone the House vote on the impeachment motion. That is too facile an argument unless the Republicans believe that US use of its power will stop some wavering or moderate party members from impeaching him. The order for an immediate strike was to show US resolve, and to act before the Muslim religious period of Ramadan, which is beginning in a few days. Really, the dispute is over how best to proceed against Saddam. It was the UN that took him to task and imposed sanctions. It is for the UN to resolve this problem. If force must be used, it must only be with the authority of the UN, and not arbitrarily.

CHINA DAILY

CLOSE ALLIES of the United States and Britain during the Gulf War eight years ago have distanced themselves from the new round of attacks on Iraq. The reason for this is simple. Hopes for a peaceful resolution of the Iraqi crisis had not really been exhausted before the military strike broke out. The use of force is against the will of all peace-loving peoples. The US-British joint operation disregarded UN conventions. A world run by big powers, acting outside the framework of international relations, has subjected itself to a clear threat of power politics.



THE BOMBING OF IRAQ

Verdicts on the decision by the United States and Great Britain to launch air strikes against Iraq as punishment for its failure to cooperate with the UN arms inspectors

Russia and China, who opposed it; and

THE WASHINGTON POST and Great Britain, who resorted to force;

THE CAMPAIGN must be sustained enough to gravely damage Saddam's weapons of mass destruction, and the military upon which he depends for survival. It should aim to cause as few civilian casualties as possible, but must be undertaken with the understanding that only Saddam's removal from power can erase the threat that Iraq currently poses to its region and the world. No one should be naïve enough to expect that any of the players in this drama have or could put domestic politics entirely out of their thoughts. But Clinton and his political adversaries must keep these two crises as separate as they possibly can.

ASAHI SHIMBUN Japan

WE URGE the Security Council to resume its proper duty and take a unified aptrust is restored among the United States coincidence yet.

France, which is sceptical of it. The Japanese government promptly expressed its support of the military action, which hardly contributes a solution to the Iraq problem.

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD Australia

THE UNITED States called off strikes against Iraq at the last minute a month ago, after Iraq's modest concessions. Bill Clinton's administration had said did not honour its promise to co-operate with the UN inspectors. The White House has been circumspect, as Saddam repeatedly flouted the inspectors over the past few weeks, and now says that its timproach toward Iraq. It is essential that but this conflict remains the strangest

LE MONDE France

THE DECISION to resort to force against Iraq was a bad one in every sense. It was bad in form: the Security Council wasn't consulted, even though Washington claims to act in the name of the international community; and it was bad in reasoning - there were no grounds other than Butler's suspect report. This American decision could so easily end in catastrophe.

TORONTO STAR Canada

that it would strike without warning, if Iraq SADDAM HUSSEIN cannot be allowed to assume that the international community has lost the will to oppose him. The bombings aim to harass him, degrade his ability to produce weapons of mass destruction, and erode confidence in his ing has been dictated by circumstance. It regime. Few believe he will willingly is impossible to disprove that argument, change course. But if Saddam will not comust be contained.

LORD HOFFMANN'S JUDGMENT

British views on the Law Lords' decision to invalidate their previous ruling to allow extradition proceedings against General Pinochet

THE SUN

THE PINOCHET ruling is extraordinary. It means that not even the highest court in the land can be considered free from bias. How it could have slipped Lord Hoffmann's mind to mention his connection with Amnesty International is beyond us. His mistake has caused a huge political row here and abroad. He surely cannot keep his job.

THE EXPRESS

THE ONLY winner from this farce is Jack Straw. By allowing the extradition to proceed last week, he pleased almost the entire liberal establishment and Labour Party. But after the ruling, the likelihood must be that Pinochet will be returned to Chile when the Law Lords reconvene - which will allow Mr Straw and the Government to escape an awkward dilemma.

THE CITIZEN



FINANCIAL TIMES

LORD HOFFMANN'S actions may yet prove a personal tragedy. More broadly, they have called into question the role and composition of Britain's highest court. Before the Pinochet case, few outside legal circles would have known how judges come to be appointed to Britain's senior court. With the advent of devolution and the incorporation of

Human Rights into domestic law, such issues will shortly assume far greater importance.

DAILY MAIL

mann's legal brilliance. But mon sense. In law, appearreally seen to be done, when a lar and partisan interest?

THE GUARDIAN the European Convention on rupted the search for justice. THE VIEWS OF THE WORLD

BALTIMORE SUN

LIANHE ZAOBAO

Singapore

NOBODY DISPUTES Hoffhowever rigorous his approach, and however dispassionate his judgment may have been, his behaviour was lacking in comances are everything. Is justice judge seems to have a particu-

ONE CAN only hope that the next panel of law lords will take the view that General Pinochet does not have the immunity he claims. Whether they do or not, the victory of tactics over principle has inter-

PENSION REFORM

Verdicts on the Government's proposals for

WHAT IS well understood is

THE GUARDIAN

advanced industrialised country can feel proud of.

BY OFFERING a second pension rather than income sup-

changes to welfare provision for the elderly

DAILY MAIL

the doomsday scenario of fewer and fewer workers having to support more and more pensioners living longer and longer. As the decades pass, the state pension - already inadequate will be worth only small change.

system are being addressed.

THE PROPOSALS are a deft answer to the question - what pensions policy is consistent with declining funding, and won't involve electorally unpopular taxes on the middle classes. But it won't necessarily provide pensions for the poorest that an

THE TIMES

port to the low-paid, the Government has removed the stigma of forcing them to rely on means-tested welfare.

FINANCIAL TIMES NEW LABOUR can claim that increased public spending is going to those in need, for which it deserves full marks. Despite the caveats, many of the deficiencies of the present

THE MIRROR

IF THE Government did not come up with a new plan for pensions, we would have millions of poverty-stricken old people. Everyone who is working and earning reasonable money will have to make a provision. Not the sort of thing which leads to cheering, but a crucial step in creating a welfare state for the 21st century.

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Opinion after the resignation of the chief executive of the Football Association

THE TIMES

THE FOOTBALL Association may be spared animosity, because the spectacle it presents is too ridiculous to sustain hatred. None of the proposals to streamline the FA will be of any merit unless they ensure capable leadership. For the moment, it is certain that the FA, whenever it strides the corridors of power, will throw open a door and march straight into the broom cupboard. (Kevin McCarra)

EVENING STANDARD

THE RESIGNATION of Mr Graham Kelly is a major event in a sport where the investigation of alleged wrong-doing has an unrivalled reputation for stateliness, not to say toothlessness. No doubt the FA will be toiling night and day to bring us

the truth. When it does so, let us hope it can shed light on the difference between a "grant", a "gift" and a "loan".

THE EXPRESS

KELLY TYPIFIED the incompetent face of English football administration. He loomed over a game riddled with scandal and corruption. The FA should take this opportunity to appoint a more forward-thinking administrator for what is now a multi-billion-pound industry.

THE MIRROR

and shoot hogs. Hog Hunt '98

is to draw attention to the plight

of the American farmer,

Hunters will be charged \$100 to

shoot a hog. "Some have criti-

cized the hunt," Muller said.

because they think it's cruel to

kill an animal. What do they

think they're doing when they

SYDNEY MORNING

HERALD

Australia

SYDNEY IS running out of

Christmas trees as the demand

plastic and want the real thing.

eat beef, pork or bacon?"

IT'S THE best news for English soccer for a long time - Graham Kelly has quit as boss of the FA. He is an arrogant, pig-headed, smug, self-opinionated fool, who acted as if football were there for his own aggrandise. ment. Football is better off without him.

MISCELLANEOUS

Stories from around the world

BANGKOK POST Thailand

POLICE DESTROYED over 20 rai of opium poppy fields in mountainous areas in Phop Phra district. About 30 officers were sent to slash and burn poppies planted by tribespeople. A tribesman was found harvesting poppies, but managed to flee arrest. Police said villagers who grow poppies have introduced modern technology which allows year-round cultivation and improved yields.

DES MOINES REGISTER

A GROUP of Iowa pork producers is inviting hunters to come

reaches unprecedented levels. Some suppliers shut up shop two weeks early, telling clients they would have to settle for the plastic. People have got sick of

RESEARCH BY SALLY CHATTERTON

THE WEEK

perch, for a lighter buttock perch." Kirsty Young, Channel 5 newsreader (pictured)

my mind." President Bill Clinton when asked whether

"I wonder if you thought, as the bleeding women and into hospitals, that those who were diminished and degraded were not the Iragis, but us mangy Desert Fox." George Galloway, Labour MP addressing Tony

enough, in my view. If I had my way, admission to opera houses would be entirely forbidden to Rupert Christiansen opera critic

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NIDA AL WATAN

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children were carried reduced to being a tail on this verminous and Blair in the Commons

"I don't like humans much. Which is not a very good recipe for elective politics." Alan Clark, Tory MP

"It is not élitist riff-raff like you." E WEEKEND REVIEW

sseciation -

The year of living rather less than dangerously

our good friends Sam and Marcie Lapwing, from Boise, Idaho, at the top of their festive reindeer-androbin encrusted cards. We met the Lapwings on holiday in India 12 years ago and haven't seen them since, but every Christmas, without fail, we get this detailed report of how the family are getting along.

'We've been to a lotta places and done a whole bunch of interesting things," the Lapwings' newsletter continues. "Marcie has been nominated to the National Board of the Scleroderma Foundation, and you may have caught Sam's face on Dateline TV in the middle of September talking about stem-cell transplantation in scleroderma and related conditions."

Why are other people's lives so

IT'S SO difficult trying to synthesise much more interesting than mine. a busy year on to one page, write I thought gloomily, having heard all about the very lovely wedding in the woods of Lake Taho that the entire Lapwing family attended in April and what a truly rewarding time Marcie's mother had visiting kinfolk in Maine.

> More to the point, why are other people's memories so much sharper than mine? Marcie and Sam complain that it's difficult to synthesise a year on to one page. I have problems trying to synthesise what I did with the back door key last night. It's unlikely we went to a wedding last spring - my friends gel divorced - but if we did it certainly wasn't in a wood. I haven't seen inside a wood for years. And I don't believe my mother has visited her kinfolk recently because

they're all in the "southern Shan



SUE ARNOLD

Stem-cell transplantation was pivotal to Sam in 1998. Losing my glove loomed large in my year

states" of upper Burma, and if she had she would definitely have asked me to feed her cat.

This loss of memory is particularly galling because I used to

have a brilliant memory, especially -Hello iron, I'm going to switch you interesting than mine, it's other for numbers. Ask me to reel off any of my Austrian friend's three 13digit telephone numbers in Vienna, Salzburg and St Anton and out they would come pat, digit perfect. Now I can't remember the four-figured pin number of my credit card which I use practically every day.

There are, I know, all sorts of ingenious methods you can employ remember important things, like whether you've switched the iron off or sent those vital cheques to the bank. The best way I was reliably advised by a psychologist called George is to verbalise - yes, of course, he's American. In other words you don't just switch the iron off and pull out the plug. You say: I'm switching the iron off and taking the plug out." Better still, you talk to the iron as a friend. You say:

off and then I'm going to take out your plug and put you away." This way, said George, you build up a relationship with the iron, and, since relationships are important to humans, particularly women, there is no way you would ever

forget how the relationship ended. None of this I appreciate would be of much use when trying to synthesise a year, busy or banal, on to a Christmas card to send back to Marcie and Sam. The other drawback is having to refer to vourself in the third person, like a character in a novel. "Heavens, is it really a year since Sue left one of her gloves, her brand new gloves, in the back of the commuter cab? My, how time flies,"

On second thoughts it's not other people's lives that are more

people's priorities. Stem-cell transplantation was pivotal to Sam in 1998, losing my glove, my brand new glove, in the back of a cab looms large in my year. But I do see it's not the sort of thing you record in a Christmas card. Some might say that scleroderma isn't exactly festive either, and, at the risk of sounding disloyal to our good friends in Idaho, I would agree with them. There are only two requirements of a Christmas card message. One: it should be brief; two: it should be legible. You will have gathered by now that I haven't sent my Christmas cards yet, but no panic, there's still plenty of time despite all those dire warnings. What I need is two com-

pletely uninterrupted hours to

write the wretched things.

me at Battersea Arts Centre one year had the right idea. We were watching a production of the Bible. not the whole thing just the Old Testament, performed by a cast of four. They balked at nothing - the Flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, the Philistine hordes, the multitudes passing through the Red Sea, we had it all. The fact that there were only three people in the audience (it had poor reviews) did nothing to dampen the cast's enthusiasm, not even when the woman beside me opened her handbag, took out a stack of Christmas cards and began writing them. "Stay thy hand," said the angelic host, all two of them, as Abraham lifted his knife to sacrifice Isaac. "You don't happen to know the postal code for Swindon?" whispered the woman beside me.

THE SATURDAY PROFILE

KOFI ANNAN, UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL

The forceful peacemaker

WHEN THE first cruise missiles slammed into their targets in Baghdad on Wednesday evening, Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary General, did something unusual. He retired to his expansive 38-floor office at UN headquarters in New York, sat at his mahogany desk and slowly smoked a cigar. "I have never seen him do that before," one of his aides remarked later, "but I think he needed it for solace."

Annan, a descendant of Ghanaian tribal chiefs, who is now upon his second anniversary as the world's diplomat-in-chief, is not a man who sulks or dwells on his setbacks. The following evening, even as the second wave of bombing was under way in Iraq, he was the host at a Christmas party for senior UN staff at his official residence. He behaved as he always does at such functions - he smiled, joked with colleagues and gave the impression that, whatever was going on outside, he was enjoying himself.

But when Annan, who is 60, told the world's press on Wednesday that the start a "sad day" for the UN and for him personally, he surely meant it. His brief statement had been revised three times by his speechwriters upstairs. The Secretary General knew he had to be careful to express hisdismay without giving the impression of criticising either Washington or London, or that he was siding with Saddam Hussein in the crisis. But whatever else he said, he wanted to convey his

see of loss.
As the first Secretary General to have risen through the UN ranks to attain the post, with a career of more than 30 years in the organisation, Annan had a huge investment in preventing renewed violence in the Gulf. He was mostly invisible to the world until February this year, when he made his dramatic journey to Baghdad to attempt to talk down Saddam from his position that his presidential palaces were out of bounds for the UN weapons inspectors. of Unscom. Against mighty odds, he succeeded. Saddam agreed to reopen the palaces in a memorandum of understanding and for that period, at least, military action was forestalled.

The Baghdad dash was mightily risky for Annan. Even his personal safety may have been in peril. When the hour came for his meeting with the Iraqi leader he was whisked away in government limousines to an undisclosed location, with only three of his aides allowed to travel with him. He undertook the mission knowing that he might fail, and aware that neither Washington nor London was enthusiastic about it. Indeed, when he returned home he got no thanks from the US administration and scorn from some members of Congress. who accused him of appeasement. But Annan, we now know, is not frightened of

He demonstrated similar courage just two weeks ago when he diverted from a isit to Tunisia to meet Muammar Gaddafi. Along the way, he was bundled from the car

The Libyan leader was, and still is. to a four-wheel-drive vehicle for a bumpy dickering over whether to surrender two suspects in the 1988 Lockerbie tragedy to stand trial in the Netherlands. By agreeing to the meeting, Annan raised hopes of a breakthrough even though he himself knew that immediate results were unlikely. He reasoned, however, that refusing to

LIFE STORY

Born: 3 April 1938 Origins: A twin, son a Ghanaian Fante tribal chief Education: Boarding school run by Methodist missionaries: university, Kumasi; Macalister College, US; Institut des Hautes Etudes Internationales, Geneva Marriages: Two, with two children by his first wife. Present

wife. Nane (pictured), lawyer/ painter Career at the UN: World Health Organisation, 1962-1971. Personnei

Services UNHCR. 1976-80: UN New York. admin and management, 1983-6: Asssistant Secretary General of Office of Human Resources

1986-90: Under-Secretary General, Peacekeeping Operations 1993-5; UN Special Envoy to former Yugoslavia 1995-6; UN Secretary

General, 1997-On himself: "I am by nature a conciliator, but I can be firm when it is necessary. I'm not one of those people who believe that you have to pound the tableto

be tough" Others on him: "I had my staff here look into your background and couldn't find anyone who didn't like you." (Jesse Helms) On subduing Iraq: "You cannot do it from the air. The Gulf war proved that"

meet Gaddafi, when he was so close in the next-door country, could have caused harm to the efforts to secure the two suspects for trial. In Libya, too, there was reason to worry about Annan's security. After being diverted from Tripoli to the coastal port of Sirte, he was invited first to board a limousine for the overland journey.

ride across the desert. Separated from his security detail and from all of his aides, he was, late in the evening, delivered to Gaddafi in his traditional, vaulted tent. In two years, in fact. Annan has man-

aged to defy all predictions of how he would turn out as Secretary General. His candidacy for the post was championed by the United States and its then Ambassador to the UN, Madeleine Albright, really for only one reason - he was not Boutros Boutros Ghali, his Egyptian predecessor who had been expecting to serve a second five-year term. With his sometimes haughty and lecturing manner, Boutros Ghali had over time fallen far out of favour with Washington, never more so than when he chastised Western capitals for investing too much energy in the "rich man's" war in Bosnia while ignoring conflicts in more remote corners, notably in Africa.

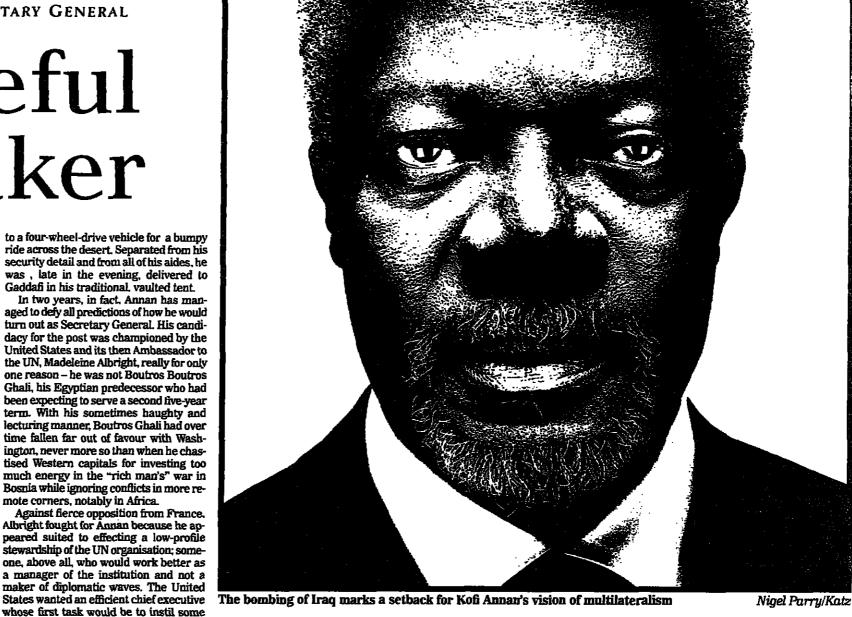
Against fierce opposition from France, Albright fought for Annan because he appeared suited to effecting a low-profile stewardship of the UN organisation: some one, above all, who would work better as a manager of the institution and not a maker of diplomatic waves. The United whose first task would be to instil some order into the morass of UN bodies and agencies and bring about the reforms that Boutros Ghali had been so reluctant to carry through. As some observers put it at the time, Annan promised to be more secretary than general. He would be competent but not inspiring.

Certainly, that was the promise of Annan's career up to that point. The son of a district manager for a chemicals company in Ghana, who was in line to become chief of the Fante tribe, Annan was sent to boarding school in Ghana.

He first travelled first to America in 1959, to attend summer school in Harvard. Thereafter, he won a Ford Foundation scholarship to attend Macalaster College in St Paul, Minnesota, where he graduated with a degree in economics. Soon afterwards, he joined the UN family for the first time, working for the World Health Organisation in Geneva. Apart from a break in 1972 to take a master's degree in management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he has remained with the UN ever since, mostly in New York where he has held such senior posts as head of budget affairs and personnel

Married twice, Annan has two children by his first marriage to a Nigerian, which ended in divorce. In 1981 he married a Swedish ex-judge and painter, Nane Lagergren. By some almost cosmic confluence of destinies, she is the niece of the vanished Swedish diplomat, Raoul Wallenberg, who saved 100,000 Hungarian Jews from Nazi death camps.

Annan's first splash into the headlines came in 1990, when he persuaded Saddam to allow the repatriation of 500,000 foreign workers in Kuwait who had become



trapped there after the Iraqi invasion. Then, under Boutros Ghali, he assumed the pivotal post of Under Secretary General for peacekeeping. It was a position that could have ruined his reputation. Under his watch, the UN suffered the double humiliation of the fiasco in Somalia, including the incident that left 18 US servicemen dead. and the ultimately dismal attempt to set up the so-called "safe havens" in Bosnia. Almost worse, however, was the outbreak of genocide in Rwanda in 1994. Half a million Rwandans died in the slaughter, while the West and the UN essentially watched from the sidelines. It transpired later that Annan's office had received intelligence before the massacres clearly warning that an

immense tragedy was at hand. While the UN caught the blame for the failure of the safe havens. Annan refrained from saying what he and the whole institution were feeling. They were certain that the responsibility lay principally with the governments who had failed to supply the UN with anything like the manpower necessary to defend them. "Screaming and getting bitter and being angry is negative energy," he once said about his reluctance to speak out. "It takes a lot of energy out of you and doesn't help."

On reform, Annan has not disappointed the Americans. He has stripped a thousand posts from the organisation, and has chosen strong new voices for some of its bodies, including the former Irish Prime Minister Mary Robinson to watch over human rights. And he has replaced a system whereby agencies were led by independent heads reporting individually to the Secretary General, with a cabinet system of leadership. Slowly the UN is turning from

a bureaucracy of scattershot chaos to one of co-ordinated action.

Otherwise, however, he has surprised everybody. It is common nowadays to hear him likened to the only other UN leader who inspired common awe, Sweden's Dag Hammarskjold, who served as Secretary General for eight years from 1953. "He has been a revelation even to his admirers," commented Shashi Tharoor, a trusted senior aide. "He has shown that he has diplomatic skills that had never really been tested before. We thought we knew the man and his qualities, but really we did not". France, which was so opposed to Annan's appointment, reveres him today almost as a national hero.

Annan, almost improbably, has also become something of a star in Manhattan, where and his wife have become muchcourted fixtures on the frenzied society circuit of dinners, galas and fundraisers. Annan has even sought out friends in Hollywood and has recruited the likes of Michael Douglas, Sharon Stone and even Luciano Pavarotti as UN "Ambassadors for Peace". When the UN this summer published a book called The Quotable Kofi Annan, some suggested it was trying to forge a cult status for the Secretary General.

Importantly, Annan has restored morale in an institution that has every reason to feel low. His staff worship him. One official said this week: "If Kofi asked me to scrub floors for him, I'd do it."

Certainly, he is more than Washington bargained for Relations with the Clinton administration are, at best, strained. When Annan wrote a letter to Saddam Hussein on 13 November urging him to fall back into line with weapons inspections, he once

more elicited a climbdown that forestalled air strikes. Likewise, he is disappointed with Washington. While recognising that much fault lies with Iraq for today's crisis, he believes that the Clinton administration erred this summer by failing to show flexibility towards Iraq. Annan, meanwhile, has got nowhere in persuading the US to deliver the roughly £1bn it owes the UN in arrears, in spite of his achievements on re-

His sadness today stems not just from the bombardment itself, but from the setback it represents to his vision of multilateralism.

"Kofi is under strain right now because he believes rather passionately in peaceful resolution. It is bred into his bones," says Tharoor. By unleashing their missiles, London and Washington have resorted to unilateralism and, for now, have brutally short-circuited the UN and its role.

Kofi Annan, with his soft, lilting intonation and greying goatee, above all emanates humanity. It is a quality that is at the core of his personality. He is determined that that same quality should be reflected from him on to the UN organisation as a whole. Humanity, after all, is what the UN is about.

The kindest tribute in this troubled week came from the security guard who dressed up, as he does every December, as Santa Claus at Thursday's Christmas party. Kofi and Nane, he said, "had transformed this house and made it feel like home".

He was referring to the Secretary General's residence. But he could equally well have been speaking of the whole United Nations family.

DAVID USBORNE

ALAN BENNETT mends a puncture on his bike. "I get pleasure out of being able to do simple, practical jobs - replacing a fuse, changing a wheel, jump-starting a car - because they are not generally associated with a temperament like mine," he writes. "I tend to put sexual inter-

course in this category too." This entry from Bennett's diaries provides a clue to what the author is all about. Most of his plays, notably the Talking Heads television series, feature characters who are not very good at sexual intercourse - not very good at life, in fact – like Graham, a single man living with his widowed mother in A Chip in the Sugar, whose life is thrown into turmoil when an old flame of his mother's reppears.

The temptation is to confuse these Graham characters with Bennett himself. They tend to wear V-necked sweaters, as their author invariably does, and live their lives of quiet desperation in some suburb of Leeds, where Bennett was born in 1934 and spent his youth. But the playwright is not nearly as meek and

mild as he sometimes appears. Ever since the late Fifties, when the donnish Bennett was an unlikely member of the Beyond the Fringe team, he has nurtured - or at least done nothing to discourage - the public view of him as a kind of lonely (probably homosexual) librarian who became famous when he woke up one morning to find himself playing bass guitar in The Beatles.

That view of Bennett took some-

ACCIDENTAL HEROES OF THE **20TH CENTURY**

19: ALAN BENNETT, PLAYWRIGHT

thing of a knock when he revealed to The New Yorker that he had been having an affair with a neighbour, leading to his becoming briefly, in his own words: "London's most famous heterosexual."

Bennett was thus unmasked as a man who could not only mend a puncture, but woo a woman too. He also reveals himself in his diaries as a grade A curmudgeon, far from shy when it comes to turning his biting

wit on colleagues, public figures, and

especially critics. A newspaper rings Bennett up to see whether he has any comment on the occasion of Harold Pinter's 50th birthday. "I don't," writes Bennett. "Later I realise I could have sug-

gested two minutes' silence." When he attends a performance of Richard III by the Georgian State Theatre Company, a picket

"This will tell you what life in "that it was a funny evening". For Russia is really like."

"Actually," writes Bennett, "I should have thought Richard III was a pretty fair picture."

Bennett's diaries are full of rather good jokes like this. On reading Winnie-the-Pooh to an audience of children: "I battle against the crying of babies and the shouts of toddlers, and end up shouting myself hoarse," he writes. "It is Winnie-the-Pooh as read by Dr Goebbels."

What infuriates Bennett about critics is their reluctance to give him credit for the extraordinary strike rate of his jokes. When his play Kafka's Dick receives mixed reviews - to Bennett this is anything hands him a leaflet, which says: the reviewers neglected to mention nett's are some of the best.

someone who professes to hate writing - when Vaclay Havel becomes the Czech President, Bennett says how fine it must feel "just to run the state and not have to write any plays" - there is a kind of heroism in the way Bennett writes and writes: theatre, television, movies, magazine articles, diaries. His output is prodigious and invariably funny Bennett accuses himself of merely adding to the number of words in the world.

"That's why poetry is supreme," he writes, "It makes less mess."

There is some worth in Bennett's typically melancholy view. On the other hand, there can never be too less than total eulogy - he notes that many jokes in the world, and Ben-



THE WEEKLY MUSE

BY MARTIN NEWELL



In low-slung shards of reddish light On sodden saltings, brimming dikes, A mild December morning sprawls And lounges in the dripping trees While in the eastern estuaries The whooper swans fly whirring down. It's time for Christmas shopping now... You sure you want to go to town? It's mad out there, they maim and kill To have their peace and spread goodwill. They think that it's compulsory: It's not. Don't go. Stay here with me.

While Safeway, Tesco and the rest, The centres of this shopping fest, Watch vehicles come in and out Via traffic jams and roundabout, In market towns which used to thrive The men with nails and boards arrive, Assembling where the High Street stood Pale galleries of chip-flecked wood.

The latest news alleges that The young are lazy and they're fat. They drink too much and smoke as well -Oh yes, they're ugly and they smell. Well no, those last two bits were lies. Гт sorry. I apologise.

Their habits at this early stage May cause ill-health in middle age, A matter which we should discuss, Lest they're too ill to care for us.

Should auld acquaintance be forgot? I'd hazard a quick guess. Should auld acquaintance be forgot? If your name's Bill Clinton, yes.

"Sex Appeal - it's Down to Smell": I have a cold and I can't tell. So women trick us constantly By blocking our ability To judge the way that they appear? A pretty face, a well-turned rear, And all the main attraction zones Run second to their pheromones. So if she's not the fairest lamp That lit a bell-tent in your camp, It's only logic to suppose She must have led you by the nose.

Come closer. Pour yourself a port. That cocktail dress, the one I bought, Do try it on. Go on - feel free. It never really suited me. The year is knackered - I am too. Cool Yule from Newell to all of you.

THE WEASEL

The Weasel suggests some ideal Christmas gifts, such as silver handcuffs for her, a petrol can for him and lollipops for everyone

WHOA! STEADY on there! What can you be thinking of, dashing off to the shops without taking advantage of the Weasel's annual Pick of the Prezzies service? For months, my highly-paid team of researchers have been sifting through a mountain of publications, sorting wheat from chaff, gold from dross, and swans from geese to come up with the ne plus ultra of gift ideas. But what am I doing gabbing away? Time's a-wasting. Let's plunge in.

For the woman in your life, what could be more luxuriously pampering than The Oldie's suggestion of a wooden clothes-horse (£44.50)? That perennial quandary of what to buy Dad is swiftly overcome with the petrol can (£55) proposed by Living etc magazine. Surely no metropolitan home will be complete this Christmas without the stainless steel toothpick dispenser (£55), or the condom-shaped glass vase (£27) discovered by Time Out? All animal lovers will be enraptured by the fish-shaped hot-water bottle (£1.55) and tue pig-face soap (£14) suggested by The Observer magazine. Maintaining the zoomorphic theme, the irresistible ideas of Sainsbury's The Magazine include silver mussels with gold-plate lining (£130 per pair), and a fluffy polar bear (£1,100).

The Backwards alarm clock (£17) proposed by *Ideal Home* should ensure every day starts with a chuckle. Elle Decoration's selection of gifts "to win you friends for life, not just Christmas" include "paper-thin beakers in disposable China" (£5). The only drawback is having to order them from Arnhem in the Netherlands. Tinkle, smash!

Combining practicality and economy, the sterling-silver KitKat holder (£295), advocated by the Evening Standard magazine, should put paid to broken-biscuit blues. Similarly, this journal feels that someone's life will not be complete without a silver Coca-Cola holder (including straw) for £650. Finally, one can only picture the gratitude of anyone fortunate enough to receive the wildly profligate gift

suggested by The Independent:

Chupa Chups lollipops (10p each).

TALKING OF presents, the run-up to Christmas also sees the arrival of Mrs Weasel's birthday. Since this year's total is a significant number, we made our way to a specialist London shop for a suitable trinket. Despite the silver handcuffs on a velvet cushion in the window and the elaborate dog collar and lead prominently displayed within, we were not looking for exotica

intended to add spice to the

I should explain that we were in

doldrums of middle age.

the luxurious premises of Gucci on Old Bond Street. Costing £125, the collar and lead is indeed intended for some pampered pooch. The shop has sold all but one of its stock of dog baskets made from plaited Tuscan goat leather (£595), though there are still a number of silver doggy bowls (£125) available. As for the handcuffs, they are an ironic reference to the 29-year sentence passed last month on Patrizia (the "Black Widow") Reggiani, who paid 500 million lire (almost £190,000) for the contract killing of her ex-husband, Maurizio Gucci. "It was worth every lira to see him dead," reflected Patrizia. "But he wasn't worth one lira more."

Admittedly, the sterling silver handcuffs engraved with the Gucci name are not just there for show (the company is not known for passing up commercial opportunities) You can snap up a



pair for £490. "Yes, we've sold a lot," a Gucci spokeswoman told me. But not to Mrs W, I hasten to add.

ANGELS HAVE been fluttering through your letterbox. They happen to be rather haute couture emissaries of heaven - the one on the First Class Christmas stamp boasts golden fingernails. For whatever reason, the vogue for angels is stronger than ever this year. To find out more, I popped

not St Paul's or Westminster Abbey, but the National Gallery. According to its excellent CD-ROM catalogue, the

gallery has 212 works with angels. The very first work you see in the Sainsbury Wing, The Assumption of the Virgin, attributed to Francesco Bot-ticini, is chock-a-block with feathery

spirits arranged in the rigid class structure of the heavenly host. The Ministers (Principalities, Arcangels and Angels) are a bunch of po-faced jobsworths, but the middle-ranking Governors (Dominions, Virtues and Powers) are enjoying a bit of a chin-wag, while the top-notch Counsellors (Seraphim, Cherubim and Thrones) are chortling away.

Fortunately, the angels in other masterpieces reject this tedious hierarchy. Sporting wings like blue flames, the blonde babes in the Wilton Diptych pose like supermodels at a photo-shoot, their arms casually interlaced or draped around each other's shoulders.

Lowering the tone a bit, a few raffish male angels also hang about the gallery. The Archangel Michael by Pietro Perugino is a spit for Rory Bremner Having just chopped the head off Lucifer, here manifested as a snake, Piero della Francesca's St Michael looks like he might be in the jellied eel business. Admittedly, the swan's wings sprouting from his shoulders would not pass without remark on the Old Kent Road.

But perhaps the most truly angelic sight is to be seen immediately outside scent smells quite nice.

along to London's angelic HQ. This is the National Gallery, where stands the narrow cone, somewhat asymmetrical this year, of the national Christmas Tree. A touching annual gift from Norway, it is illuminated by a dancing necklace of hundreds of white bulbs. At the apex, they amalgamate into a solid point of light. No medieval theologian would have had any doubt what he was

> ALONG WITH a large chunk of the populace, I've spent an unusual amount of time sniffing round the fragrance counters in the last few days - I usually avoid such spots for fear of those aftershave-squirting vampires who pounce on innocent male necks. Anyway, my eye was taken by a new scent called Odeur 53 from Commes des Garçons, which enticingly describes itself as "an abstract anti-perfume". Intrigued, I asked for more details. According to a press release, the "impressions" given by Odeur 53 include "styrofoam radiation", "warm blood", "transubstantiated bliss". "cytokinetic silences", "thunder of glass", "helium desires", "photocopied vapours", "liquid igloo", "rivers of alu-minium", "musty cries", "desperation of forms to come", "invisibility remembered" and, in slight contradiction, "no memory". Its "ingredients" are said to include "nail polish", "ultimate fusion", "flash of metal", "mineral intensity of carbon", "cellulosic smell" and, more tempting of all, "burnt rubber". It's a funny thing, but despite the best anti-efforts of C des G, their anti-

SPIRIT OF THE AGE PAUL VALLELY

United by a fear of darkness.

superstore in the Japanese city of Osaka decided to adopt a Western seasonal motif to draw in customers. On its façade it erected a five-storey high Christmas scene. At the top was a giant star of Bethlehem. Beneath were angels and then shepherds. And in the stable at the bottom was a huge Santa Claus, crucified on a cross.

It's not only the Japanese who have their wires crossed when it comes to seasonal lighting. I am not talking about this year's Oxford Street abomproducts, Bird's Eye and Tango (fishfingers and fizzy orange - now there's a Christmas dinner to conjure with). No. I am thinking of the various festivals of light around this time of year.

We have had Diwali, in which Hindus light small earthenware lamps filled with oil, traditionally in commemoration of the god Rama. We are well into Advent, when Christians maintain "the people who have walked in darkness" will see a great light when the Christ child is born. And today Jews will light the seventh of eight candles marking the festival of Hanukkah to mark the miracle of a single day's supply of oil burning in the temple for eight days.

There is something atavistically moral about our attitude to light and darkness. Light is wholesome, open, comprehensible; darkness is unknowable, inexplicit and dangerous. No wonder that we want to burn candles

this dreary time of year.

We share pagan fears about the darkness and dress them up in our own theological garb," says Rabbi Jonathan Magonet, author of The Explorer's Guide to Judaism. "They go back to the sheer dread of that totally dark world in days before electric light." All the more alarming to our ancestors. then, when their great natural light seemed to diminish in the days up to the winter solstice. The Romans confidently called it natalis solis invicti But older religions believed the orb would wane indefinitely if they did not chant to bring about its rebirth something some people still do, according to Steve Paine, a witch and spokesman for the Pagan Federation, the members of which celebrate the solstice by lighting a Yule log or - in the case of more modern pagans who do not own a hearth - by "drilling holes in a log and putting candles in it".

Martin Palmer chuckles discreetly at the thought. "Much of what we think of as pagan was invented by antiquarians in the 17th century," says Palmer, who is director of the multifaith International Consultancy on Religion, Education and Culture. "Anyway, there's nothing quintessentially religious about partying in the dark. It's a common-sense strategy for getting through the long dismal winter. It's what the different religions add on that's interesting."

DO THE Government under-

stand the full force of what

area bombardment is doing

and is destroying now? Are

they alive not only to the vastness of

the material damage, much of which

is irreparable, but also to the harvest

they are laying up for the future re-

lationships of the peoples of Europe,

I recognise the legitimacy of

concentrated attack on industrial

and military objectives, on airfields

and air bases. I fully realise that in at-

tacks on centres of war industry and

transport, the killing of civilians,

when it is the result of bona fide mil-

itary activity, is inevitable. But there

must be a fair balance between the

means employed and the purpose

achieved. To obliterate a whole town

because certain portions contain mil-

itary and industrial establishments is

Let me take two crucial instances.

Hamburg and Berlin. Hamburg cou-

tains targets of immense military

and industrial importance. It also

happens to be the most democratic

town in Germany, where the anti-Nazi

opposition was strongest. Injuries to

civilians resulting from bona fide at-

legitimate according to International

Law. But owing to the methods used,

to reject the balance.

as well as to its moral implications?

Or what has been altered or adapted in recent times. Take Diwali, which once centred around one of the great cosmic struggles between good and evil, in which the god Rama defeated the demon Ravana. "In recent years the emphasis has shifted from Rama to Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth." says Palmer. "New Year festivities have also been added, comparatively late, which have nothing to do with the light and darkness motif.

There have also been changes in Hanukkah. What was originally a grown, most particularly in Christian countries, to become a Jewish competitor to Christmas. Some kids get presents on every one of the eight days in a kind of one-upmanship and some families even call their Christmas tree Hanukkah bush.

There has been a similar shift in the Christmas story. There was a subtle ambiguity in the package as the Church designed it. The liturgy of Advent speaks as much about preparing for the four last things - death, judgement, heaven and hell - as it does about the coming of God made flesh. Wise men bring gifts but also prompt death squads and the slaughter of the innocents. The day after Nativity is the Feast of St Stephen, the first martyr, recalling

the cost of the love the child brings. "But today our society does not tell that story," says Palmer. Increasingly we tell a sanitised version, or just the



Hindus receive blessings for Diwali

the ambiguity of real life in the secular Christmas: you either accept it or reject it and say I just work over Christmas' or 'We take a cottage in Wales and ignore it all'. Something fundamental is being lost - and from all the faiths." In part Paimer blames schools. The

early response to the need for a multifaith curriculum was to look at other religions through a Christian template - to find the Hindu or Jewish equivalent of feasts like Christmas. The attitude persists in phenomena such as Kwanza, the pseudo-African festival that American blacks have wilfully invented to replace Christmastide ("traditional" dish: Liberation Salad, with lettuce to symbolise the green of hope. olives for the black of African-Ameristory of Santa Claus. "There is none of can skin and tomatoes for the blood

shed in the struggle for equal rights). "What kids everywhere quickly worked out," says Palmer, "was that they could use all these festivals to extract more presents from their parents. Then it became consumeris that drove the changes. So despite their different origins the festivals have received identical packaging - and there's not much that can be done because it has all become a vital

Kalpesh Lathigra

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element in our national economic life." Even the pagans have acquiesced. "Our main celebration is Yule," says the witch, Steve Paine, "but we still give our children their big presents on Christmas Day. It's hard not to take part. though we only do it because of the children." Even paganism, it seems, is not what it was. Happy holidays!

DAYS LIKE THESE

25 DECEMBER 1942

JOAN WYNDHAM (pictured), a young WAAF, writes in her journal:

"My first Christmas in Scotland. I had behaved so well for the last few months, and everyone here thought I was such a nice, quiet intellectual little girl - but not any more! We were up at the men's Mess, and it was fantastic - colossal buffet, unlimited booze. I can't remember when I got so drunk or felt so exhilarated, except possibly when I went out with my dad. I have an awful feeling I called the CO a stinker - it was one of those religious arguments about whether the popes had mistresses.

A very nice pongo drove me home and wanted to kiss me but I said No, and he said, God, what a swine I am trying to take advantage of a gel when she's tight!

Mama sent me a kettle unobtainable up here – some ginger nuts, some Persian oil, and a beautiful silk kimono. The girls tell me I look the personification of sin in it."



25 DECEMBER 1913

RAYMOND ASQUITH, son of the prime minister, writes to Lady Diana Manners:

"I must apologise for sending you Aubrey Beardsley's drawings but I do so want to lead you back from your tainted and artificial ideals for a simpler saner more childlike outlook upon life. Anyhow they will do for Bonar Law's bedroom next time he stays with you. Here we have to knock along as best we may without the faintest element of corruption - not a hint of decay, not a breath of Bakst: on the contrary. Christmas cards, Morris dances,

goodwill and so forth - all that was ever joyous and clear and fresh.

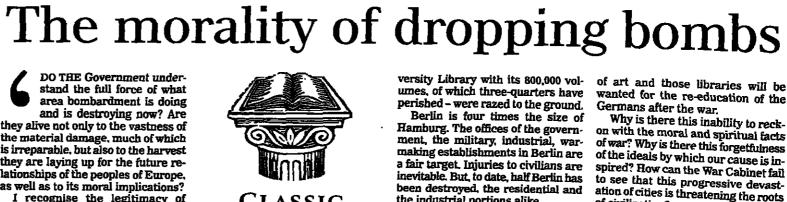
children's prattle, woolwork,

25 DECEMBER 1911

WILLIAM LASHLY, engineer on Scott's last Antarctic expedition, records in his diary:

"Christmas Day and a good one. We have done 15 miles over a very changing surface. First of all it was very crevassed and pretty rotten; we were often in difficulties as to which way we should tackle it. I had the misfortune to drop clean through, but was stopped with a jerk when at the end of my harness. It was not of course a very nice sensation. especially on Christmas Day and being my birthday as well. Anyhow Mr Evans, Bowers and Crean hauled

me out and Crean wished me many happy returns of the day. I thanked him politely and the others laughed, but were pleased I was not hurt bar a bit of a shake." IAN IRVINE



CLASSIC PODIUM

From a speech in the House of Lords by the Bishop of Chichester, George Bell, on the British bombing of German cities during the Second World War (9 FEBRUARY 1944)

were wrought last autumn. On a very conservative estimate, 28,000 persons were killed.

Never before in the history of air warfare was an attack of such weight and persistence carried out against and a half million books - in the world. tacks on particular objectives are a single industrial concentration. Practically all the buildings, cultural, military, residential, industrial, relithe whole town is now a ruin. Unutterable destruction and devastation gious - including the famous Uni-

versity Library with its 800,000 volumes, of which three-quarters have perished - were razed to the ground. Berlin is four times the size of

Hamburg. The offices of the government, the military, industrial, warmaking establishments in Berlin are a fair target. Injuries to civilians are inevitable. But, to date, half Berlin has been destroyed, the residential and the industrial portions alike.

Through the dropping of thousands of tons of bombs of extraordinary power, men and women have been lost, overwhelmed in the colossal tornado of smoke, blast and flame. It is said that 74,000 persons have been killed, and that 3 million are already homeless. The policy is oblit-eration, openly acknowledged. That is not a justifiable act of war.

Berlin is one of the greatest centres of art collections in the world. It has a large collection of Oriental and classical sculpture. It has one of the best picture galleries in Europe, comparable to the National Gallery. It has a gallery of modern art better than the Tate, a museum of ethnology without parallel in this country. One of the biggest and best organised libraries - state and university, containing two It is not possible so quickly to rebuild libraries or galleries. It is not very easy to rehouse those works of art which have been spared. Those works than power,

of art and those libraries will be wanted for the re-education of the Germans after the war.

Why is there this inability to reckon with the moral and spiritual facts of war? Why is there this forgetfulness of the ideals by which our cause is inspired? How can the War Cabinet fail to see that this progressive devastation of cities is threatening the roots of civilisation?

How can they be blind to the harvest of even fiercer warring and desolation to which the present destruction will inevitably lead when the members of the War Cabinet have long passed to their rest?

The sufferings of Europe, brought about by the demoniac cruelty of Hitler and his Nazis, and hardly imaginable to those in this country who for the last five years have not been out of this island or had intimate association with Hitler's victims, are not to be healed by the use of power only. What we do in war - which, after all, lasts a comparatively short time - affects the whole character of peace.

which covers a much longer period. It is of supreme importance that we who are the liberators of Europe should so use power that it is always under the control of law. For because the chief name inscribed on our banner is "Law", the Allies stand for something greater



THE SATURDAY ESSAY

Our ancient fascination with the sky at night

TWO THOUSAND years after it was first seen by the Wise Men, astronomers are still arguing about the Star of Bethlehem. They suggest many explanations for this herald of the birth of Christ: a comet, the birth or death of a star, a conjunction of planets, an apparent hesitation in a planetary orbit, or even the sighting of the then-unknown planet Uranus.

One little-known fact is that the star was probably not the brilliant object portrayed on Christmas cards; it appears that King Herod and all his "chief priests and scribes" missed it. St Matthew did not use the adjective "bright" to describe it in his Gospel. Only in the early, less reliable, Christian literature does the star dazzle.

Heavenly objects did not have to be brilliant for the Wise Men to find them fascinating. The Magi attached a significance to cosmic events and structures that is Liuite alien to the thinking of their modern counterparts. Their perspective is highlighted by the translation of the Greek word "magi". The Authorised Version reads this as "wise men" but the New English Bible opts for "astrologers". Like good anthropologists, we must try to see the heavens through ancient eyes and minds to understand why this star was so significant in the Magi's Babylonian society.

The Star makes one of its rare biblical appearances in the Gospel according to St Matthew 2:1-12, which states that: "In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." Some theologians dismiss this erence to the star as a story made up satisfy the Old Testament prophecy that "A star shall come forth out of Jacob and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel". Fulfilment of such a prediction would have provided succour for the faith.

Matthew's Gospel is full of references to the Old Testament, yet there is no such fulfilment statement" regarding the star. If we conclude, then, that this heavenly apparition was real, rather than something cooked up to satisfy an Old Testament prediction, what did the Wise Men see?

Interpreting the meagre star evidence tricky. When it comes to astronomy two Plennia ago, there was no physical perspective and no astrophysics; the idea that planets differed from stars had not occurred to people. Instead, they were concerned with the relative position and motion of these points of light. Identifying the star would also be easier if we knew when Jesus was born. Then we could use a computer program to extrapolate from what we can see of the heavens today to what the Wise Men saw of them on that historic night. However, we don't have a precise date for Christ's birth.

king on the assumption that the period in which the birth of Jesus took place is known - between 4BC and 7BC. some time around September or March we can draw up a shortlist of candidates for the Bethlehem star. As long ago as AD248, Origen (Origenes Adamantius), the celebrated Christian writer, teacher and theologian, suggested that the Bethlehem star was a comet. Perhaps it was the "broom star" (sui-hsing) - so called because the comet's tail appeared to be sweeping the sky - that was described in 5BC by Chinese astronomers and recorded in the official history of the Han dynasty.

The Magi had the knowledge and ural influences that would motivate بالمالية and to chase the comet. In classical literature, the Magi are depicted as a religious group skilled in the observation of the heavens. From the fourth century BC, Babylon was the centre of astronomy in the known world and the Magi were important members of the Babylonian royal court in Mesopotamia. Moreover, Babylon had contained a thriving Jewish colony since the time of the Exile in the 13th century BC, so that the Jewish prophecies of a saviour king, the Messiah, may have been well known to the Magi.

Why did the Wise Men follow the star? Comets were then associated with great rulers, and the Magi were known to have visited kings in other countries. Not everyone agrees. Critics point out that Henry, the second-century astronomer/ astrologer from Alexandria, associated comets with misfortune.



ROGER HIGHFIELD

Heavenly objects do not have to be spectacularly brilliant for Wise Men to find them intriguing

How did the comet direct the Magi to Bethlehem? Given the model of the heavens that then prevailed, comets would have been regarded by the Magi as being below the "heavenly spheres" containing the stars, planets, and so on. Colin Humphreys, of Cambridge University, explains how the Magi might have thought of the comet as hanging over a given spot, particularly if it was low in the sky and its tail was oriented vertically. This interpretation vividly fits Matthew's account: "Lo, the star, which they had seen in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was."

There has, however, been some debate over whether the Chinese records imply movement typical of a comet. Some British astronomers have suggested that the Chinese mistakenly categorised the object as a broom star when it was in fact a "guest star", the thermonuclear flash of a nova, from the Latin nova stella, or "new star". This theory dates back a long way, perhaps even to a hint in De Vero Anno, written in 1614 by the great astronomer Johann Kepler A few such novas appear each year, when a faint, usually unseen, star brightens by a factor of 10,000 or even 1,000,000. These outbursts are thought to occur in a binary, a pair of stars, when gases from the larger member fall into the smaller member, triggering a nuclear conflagration.

However, the same reasons that make the comet an attractive candidate for the Bethlehem star tend to disqualify the nova. Matthew 1:9 suggests that the object was later visible in the south, and a nova would not have moved that much. The location is also an unlikely one for a nova. given that the Bethlehem star appeared well away from the disc-like plane of our galaxy, which is lush with stars - its hazy cross-section is seen in the sky as the Milky Way - and likelier to be a stellar nursery.

But the objective perspective of a modern astronomer may be an inadequate one from which to hunt for the Bethlehem star. We need to understand who the Wise Men were and how they interpreted signs in the heavens. Astrology was widely practised throughout the Roman world, especially in that part of the Near East that included Judaea, and the Magi, with their detailed knowledge of the night skies, would have been unlikely to have been impressed by a routine event such as the appearance of a shooting star. They might, however, have been moved by something in the night skies that would seem unremarkable to a modern astronomer. This is best understood by looking back at the common origin of astronomy and astrology.

Before the 17th century, there was not the sharp dichotomy that we see today between astrologers (who always spout ambiguous rubbish) and astronomers (who sometimes do). At the root of both disciplines is our ancient fascination with the night sky. A holy man's knowledge of the heavens conferred an ability to foretell the future, guiding him through the seasons, showing when to harvest and when to move herds. It also helped him to predict notable events such as a solar eclipse or the flooding of rivers such as the Nile. In this restricted sense, knowledge of the heavens illuminates our destiny. This. however, is a far cry from the astrologer's supposed art of judging the occult influence of the stars on human affairs.

Woe betide anyone who confuses astronomy and astrology today. But when the Wise Men gazed at the heavens, they glimpsed something of their destiny. Once



we accept that the Magi had an astronomer's interest in the details of the night sky, spiced with the astrologer's fascination for what these details might say about human affairs, it becomes apparent they may not have seen a star at all, or indeed a cut-and-dried astronomical obiect, but an unremarkable cosmic event with remarkable symbolism.

This fascination with cosmic symbols underlines one clear difference between the Magi and the chief priests: astrology was practised in Babylonian society. whereas it was forbidden in Jewish society, according to Deuteronomy 4:19 ("lest thee corrupt thyselves... lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and, when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldst be driven to worship them, and serve them"). That Herod was unaware of the star until the Magi informed him of its significance

adds weight to this argument. If we accept that many Bethlehem-star suggestions do not take into account the mindset of the Wise Men, what kind of astrology was practised in the Near East during the reign of King Herod? Michael Molnar from Rutgers University in Piscataway, New Jersey, has studied Greek astrology as used throughout the Roman world, including Mesopotamia and Babylonia, and drawn his own conclusions: "By my theory, Jesus would have been 2,000 years old on 17 April 1995". His candidate for the Star of Bethlehem is an event that took place on 17 April 6BC: a double occultation of Jupiter by the Moon, when our closest neighbour moves in front of the giant planet. Molnar's studies have suggested that this event, though of little significance to a modern astronomer. was "brilliant" in an astrological sense. Michael Molnar notes that astrological

signs appeared on ancient coinage, notably from Antioch, the capital of the Roman province of Syria. On one side of each coin was a bust of Jupiter. On the other, Aries the Ram gazed back at a star. Molnar now believes that the coins commemorate the annexation of Judaea by the Romans, which suggests that the Romans were aware of important astrological portents involving Judaea. He considers it likely that what he calls "the great portent" of 17 April 6BC was very much on their minds - the Romans were looking for proof that a Roman, not a Jew, had fulfilled the messianic prophecy. Aries appeared on the coins because it was linked to Judaea in contemporary symbolism: Ptolemy mentions that Judaea is under the spell of Aries.

Molnar's argument needed another ingredient - the presence of a heavenly body to symbolise the birth of a king: "My initial search for a regal 'star' centred on the star of Zeus, namely the Planet Jupiter, which invariably played the central role in horoscopes that had regal implications". To identify an astrological portent involving Jupiter, he focused on lunar occultations. These are "bull's-eve" conjunctions in which the Moon's disc obscures the planet. Examining the likely time frame, Molar found only two that took place in Aries and thus in Judaea, occurring on 20 March 6BC and 17 April 6BC: "During the second occultation, Jupiter was precisely in the east, an astrological terminology that Matthew uses to describe the Magi's star". The heavens on 17 April 6BC produced impressive astrological portents: "If we recreate a horoscopic chart for [this date]," writes Molnar, "we find unmistakable indications pointing to the birth of a king of Judaea. I believe that a horoscope of that day was incredibly ominous – truly messianic". The mystery of the Star has been

solved. Perhaps not. David Hughes of Sheffield University for one, believes that such occultations took place too regularly to be of great astrological significance. He is struck by the rival idea of a triple conjunction and argues that the Bethlehem triple conjunction was Jupiter, Saturn and the constellation of Pisces. The regal aspect came from Jupiter, while Saturn stood for both the principle of justice and the land of Palestine. Pisces was the sign of the zodiac that represented the land of Israel. This conjunction, claims Hughes, signified a potent brew of divinity, kingship and righteousness involving the Jewish people and the Promised Land: "Putting it crudely, that is why the Wise Men went for Jerusalem."

The Magi could have figured out the details of the triple conjunction well in advance. They could have watched the first conjunction from Babylon in May of 7BC, but delayed travelling until the end of the long, hot summer. On their way to Jerusalem, they could have witnessed the astrologically important moment when Jupiter and Saturn were rising at the instant of sunset.

As interpreted by David Hughes, the passage rendered in most translations of the Bible as "We have seen his star in the east" has a more specific meaning, namely "We have seen his star rising in the east as the Sun was setting". If this explanation is correct, the only thing that is miraculous is that the Magi noticed the "star" and made the arduous trek to witness, as they said, the appearance of a new king for the Jews. This suggests the real Christmas should be celebrated some time around the month of September, to reflect the events that took place in 7BC. However, given the patchy evidence, the Star of Bethlehem debate will no doubt continue.

BAROMETER

SEAN O'GRADY

Turkey of the week Meet Trudi the turkey and her Baker handreared the lovely Trudi as a pet. But this turkey voted for Christmas when she escaped from her own safe quarters to

Baker's 1,200 (identical) birds that were, sadly, never going to see another glad, confident Boxing Day morning.

Mr Baker was distraught, the stuffing knocked out of him. But, if you knew Trudi like he knew Trudi... Or, in his words: Usually the birds are all asleep inside their huts but this time. as I got into the run, one turkey came towards me. I could tell immediately it was Trudi because of the way she walks. She seems to waddle a bit more than the others. I knew for sure

Law lord of the week Another turkey. Leonard Hoffmann is the judge who let

Pinochet off the hook by neglecting to declare his human rights But "Legover Lennie has not in the bothered to

conceal his passionate concern for the human rights of Stringfellows

babes, among others. The Lord Justice of Sex Appeal stopped going to the night spot a few years ago. Do all women find these guys, with their sharp legal minds, full-bottomed wigs and substantial earnings



the week The Austin Mini - the greatest car ever - celebrates its 40th birthday in 1999. This is Natalie Curtis's festively decorated 1993 job, known, perhaps a little predictably, as Rudolph. He has a red nose, £200-worth of holly. crackers, mistletoe, snowflakes a toy reindeer and a trailer for presents. And tunlike certain

small Mercedes) he's sure to

pass the "elk test".

Pants of the week Russian scientists (haven't they got anything better to do?: are developing a cocktail of bacteria to digest the cotton and paper underpants worn by astronauts. Besides saving space in space and removing a potential health risk, the methane produced could be used to power the spacecraft. There should be a fully working version ready by 2017. Intergalactic transport will never be the same again. Eat my shorts, Spock.

Image of the week Filon Hague and... surely that can't be the Leader of the Opposition, fresh from another makeover? Wisely, William stayed away from this photoopportunity, although the shape of the wabbit's head does have a familiar look to it.





classes! Write them out of existence - or at least out of Brookside Close. Well, that's what Phil Redmond ordered this week. The jovial television producer talks of his fiendish characters as though they both them and it into our homes with productions such as Brookside. Hollyoaks and Grange Hill. Not for Square where just about the worse thing that can happen is Babs Windsor fluttering her eyelashes at you; Redmond prefers bodies under patios, incest, drugs and contract killing. No wonder my mother would never let me watch Gronge Hill.

DEATH TO the boring middle Why do you think the middle classes are boring?

That is a typical soundbite quote. I was trying to correct the view that I was about to take Brookside more middle-class, following on from Blair's notion that we're all middlewere best friends; he also has a pen- class now, so we need to make all our chant for gritty realism, and brings soap operas middle-class. It just But when I last saw Hollyooks', it One of the most frustrating things wasn't true.

Why leave the middle class out? him the comfortable life of Albert Soap needs at its core working-class characters, because most of the population can still be defined in those terms. As a storyteller, I think there's a lot to be said about the needs and the problems of the working class. And it's where I

COLD CALL

SALLY CHATTERTON RINGS PHIL REDMOND

was teeming with middle-class

If you stand back and look at the characters, I would argue that they are not middle-class. They are just slightly more middle-class than normally seen portrayed on television,

Aren't you perpetuating a 'scally' stereotype with some of your working-class characters?

that you discover as a contemporary dramatist is that life really is made up of stereotypes and clichés.

They're true because they do exist.

Do you think that soap has a specific function?

There are so many bogus theories on this. But it falls on what you want can then engage them in the debates that are going on in society. The more challenging you make that debate, the more enjoyable they find the programme.

an audience in a programme, you

ratings, then?

Well, we do do cynical ploys: the explosion in Brookside, drugs in

It is a cynical ploy, then? No. It's part of the crack. The fabric rother than dull the brain?

ienced. But not all the time. They also want a bit of spice,

Can soap operas educate? It's education with a small "e". But that's not the vocation. We're there to entertain. We've turned the Not just a cynical ploy to up the Reithian thing around from "educate, inform and entertain" to "entertain, inform and educate". I've learnt that if you're not talking Grange Hill, a plane crash in about an issue that the public is en-Emmerdale. That's part of the skill. gaged in, then they will ignore it.

Soaps, then, will encourage debate of society is the mundane. People It helps create a more sympathetic want to see a relevancy, to touch it climate for the real campaigners. to do as a writer. I am interested in and realise that someone else is That's the greatest claim I'll make looking at issues. If you can engage experiencing what they've exper- and that gives the greatest buzz.

The morning-after lawsuit

Indulging in seasonal shenanigans at the annual office Christmas party can result in something far worse than a hangover. By Meg Carter

nasty turn for the worse. Dave, the assistant manager for a firm of estate agents in Manchester, had been drinking since lunchtime. along with his boss and half of the department. So by the time the official Christmas party got underway in a nightclub nearby, spirits were high - and stomachs empty.

"We were all on the dance floor having a good time. Dave was there too, being loud and aggressive," a colleague recalls. "All of a sudden there was shouting, and then a crash. We turned and saw Dave and Brian from accounts thrashing about on the floor. It looked pretty nasty.

Apparently, Dave hadn't been seeing eye-to-eye with Brian for some weeks. Office resentment, fuelled by alcohol, had turned into a violent bar-room brawl. The club owner angrily surveyed the wreckage - broken glasses and chairs and an upturned table. Dave, all bruised and bolshie was sacked on the spot. Still, the outlook was far worse for his boss - he began the New Year with a double hangover: legal claims for damaged property and for

unfair dismissal. Dave's employer lost on both counts. Li-able for the club owner's costs, the company also had to pay Dave compensation. The employment tribunal ruled that it was the employer's responsibility that things got so out of hand. Their view was that Dave's bad behaviour should have been stopped before it was too late.

This sorry tale is not unique. Across the country each Christmas, people will be paying more for their party excesses than just a hangover. The only people with reason to be cheerful about all this are the legal profession.

"It's become a fact that misconduct reaches its high point at the office Christmas party." says Trish Embley, an associate at the law firm Eversheds. "During the early months of each year, our caseload is dominated by employers who encourage staff to let their hair down - by providing a free bar, for example - but then try to discipline them for Christmas party excesses such as fighting, sexual harassment, vandalism and drug abuse."

Interestingly, few people seem to "let go" in quite such a licentious way in the privacy of their own homes. So why pick an office party? Perhaps it's the potent combination of 12 months of strait-laced behaviour followed by one night let off the leash. Often, emotions bubbling under during the year have a habit of surfacing says: "They don't want to turn to the law

t was only 9.30 when events took a during festive celebrations – whether they're sexual, aggressive or otherwise.

Take a recent case involving a male employee who exposed himself at his office's Christmas "do". A female colleague filed a formal complaint. On closer inspection, however, it emerged that she had encouraged him. Others are not so lucky. In a separate incident, three female office workers set upon a male colleague, stripping him near-naked. Although he enjoyed the attention, a number of other staff members did not and filed sexual harass-

Three female workers set upon a male colleague, stripping him near naked. He enjoyed it, but other staff did not and filed sexual harassment charges

To many of us, seasonal shenanigans are as traditional a part of Christmas as mince pies and mistletoe. It's a perceived pay-off, the occupational psychologist Bridget

Hogg explains.

"The I can drink what I like because it's free' culture is underpinned by a belief that you work hard all year so your boss owes you a little fun at Christmastime," she says. "But trouble starts when people think the office party is a truly informal, social situation. It's not."

Behaviour that might be tolerated among friends could wreak long-term damage on working relationships developed across the rest of the year. In other words, snogging, stripping and fighting are all no problems are to retain a chiral are all no-no's if you want to retain a shred of dignity in the office the following morning. Inhibitions are there for a very good reason - self-preservation. "It can only make your job harder if your staff have seen you doing a drunken strip in front of the Christmas tree," says Debra Allcock of the Industrial Society. "It may sound party-pooperish, but seasonal goodwill and free alcohol is an increasingly dangerous combination."

Each January, the Industrial Society's legal helpline is flooded with calls from employers trying to sort out "tricky situations" arising from the Christmas bash, she

*THE INDEPENDENT



The heady mix of free drink and bonhomie offers a potentially explosive outlet for pent-up passions

David Modell/Katz

amicably, but sometimes there's not another choice."

Incidents roughly divide into two camps: rassment, both sexual and racial. In almost every case, however, alcohol is the catalyst. The heady mix of free drink and bonhomie offers a potentially explosive outlet for pent-up passions which have been quietly simmering for the rest of the year, says David Berry, who runs a personnel counselling service for a City finance firm.

"If someone feels constantly put down, or thinks that a colleague is regularly invading their space, it is at Christmas that all of these pressures come to a head," he Christmas "do" to have sex with a col-

and they go to extremes to sort things out explains. "Work-related insecurities and league - often clear grounds for unlawful inter-office rivalries that are kept in check for the rest of the year can bubble over in the apparently informal surroundings abuse, both physical and verbal; and ha- of the office Christmas party - with disastrous results."

By the same measure, mild flirtation can develop into full-blown passion with just a few glasses of Chardonnay. Which is all fine and well if both parties are consenting, less so if the attention is unsolicited and unwelcome.

Eversheds highlights a number of scenarios regularly making appearances in the New Year caseload. There is the furtive return to company premises after the

entry. Or the Christmas party where partners are invited too. A number of cases have arisen from guests who, jealous of at-tention being paid their spouse by a glamorous co-worker, end up in a fight.

Then there's rowdy behaviour - and we're not just talking about the office riffraff. Another case involved a company which took its senior staff to a restaurant for a festive meal. Half of the directors were subsequently arrested after light-hearted roll-throwing with a rival department on a neighbouring table got out of hand and punches were thrown. The restaurant filed for damages - and won.

Disciplining the wrong-doers, however, have egged them on.

is not a clear-cut affair. "Often, alcohol is viewed to be the mitigating circumstance." Ms Embley explains. True, you shouldn't drink to excess and abuse your colleagues, but if your employer has provided the booze, then it has an obligation to ensure it is consumed responsibly.

In one recent case, a high-street retailer sacked a couple for lewd behaviour at a Christmas party in front of colleagues and invited guests. The pair took their ex-employer to a tribunal for unfair dismissal and won. The reason? No one had attempted to tell them that their behaviour was unacceptable and one of the company's directors had actually appeared to

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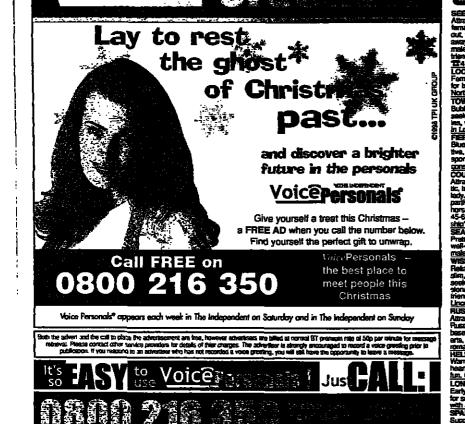
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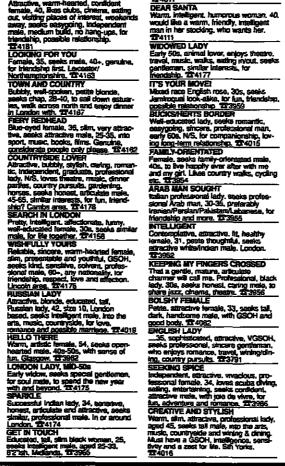
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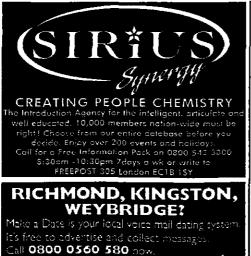


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حكذا من الاحل

Why can't family life be more like football?

EACH YEAR, one or two sporting moments lodge themselves in the folk memory, and this year's brace happened within 20 minutes of each other, when England played Argentina in the World Cup. I may have forgiven David Beckham for his lapse that day. Certainly, I am able once more to marvel at his skill with free kicks, and I can even bring myself to feel slightly sorry that he and Posh can't go out for a quiet drink like any

other young couple. But who can have forgotten the characteristic outburst of petulance that makes him the fall-guy of a perfect modern cautionary tale? For me, Beckham is like one of the mythological heroes of the ancient world combined with The Boy Who Played With Matches (and ended up burnt to a cinder), as told to me by my mother when I was a small boy.

This week I pressed this cautionary tale into action when my own sometimes petulant seven-year-old, Darcy, came home from school seething with indignation that he had been given a detention: all be and his riend had done, he told us, was to step in and prevent a third boy from being pushed around after football in the playground.

"I didn't start it, and it wasn't my fault," he insisted. In fact, as Darcy made pretty clear, his behaviour had been little short of heroic, and he rubbed it in by ostentatiously writing a Christmas card to his co-accused in which he pledged to carry on "protecting" their friend. His PR campaign worked

well enough to send me in to discuss the matter with his teacher. An experienced reader of junior spin-doctoring, she left me in little doubt that, far from being some awful mistake. Darcy's detention was richly deserved as the culmination of a term's worth

of niggling infractions. This left me in a quandary: how was I to explain to Darcy that while I applauded his antibullving sentiment. I also supported his teacher's

disciplinary action? So I told the tale of David Beckham, The Boy Who Lost the World Cup. "Remember when England played Argentina in France '98?" I asked Darcy. He cast his mind back across the dim mists of time to last summer, "Remember when Michael Owen scored that



BRUCE **MILLAR**

amazing goal, but Beckham got himself sent off and so England lost?" Yes, he remembered it. but so what? "Well, Beckham was the one who was fouled, so he didn't start it, and the

Argentine player wasn't punished at all," I explained.

"But it was Beckham who kicked out and got himself sent off, which meant England were out of the World Cup. He often behaves like that and gets away with it, but this time he was punished. Now you could say it was unfair on Beckham - and it was." I suggested. "But everyone still blames him because it was silly to react in the way he did."

It occurred to me at this point that the referee has the enormous advantage of meting out justice on a summary basis. It may be uneven, even random at times, but it is dispensed on the soot and there is little point in taking issue with it indeed, it is against the rules even for adult players to argue with the referee

Few sensible people would advocate a return to the barbarities of corporal punishment, but the quasijudicial disciplinary codes that have replaced it, with their various grades of offence leading up to detention during or after school, have lost that instant link between crime and retribution. The whole lengthy process breeds a legalistic culture in which arguing back is not only the norm, it becomes a sacred right. Teachers become judges and children barrackroom lawyers, with parents wheeled in for special occasions

like cut-rate QCs. And, as any

parent will tell you, the endless

argument over why a certain

infringement was wrong is

often just as wearing as the

offence itself. All of which leaves the

referee on the sports field, with his whistle and colour-coded cards, as the last exponent of summary justice in our world. Semi-judicial committees may impose or lengthen bans on any player who infringes. but they can't overturn a sending off as yet - the referee still wields absolute power in his domain.

Recognising this, I once bought a set of yellow and red cards from my local sports shop as an aid to discipline at one of the boys' birthday parties. Naturally, it didn't work. Guests goaded me and thumped each other under my very nose in the quest of cards: each one wanted to the be the first to score red. People moan about the hardship of being a ref these days - but it's much harder being a teacher or a dad.

The grown-up kid who gets paid to play Lego all day

MY WEEK

FIVE DAYS IN THE LIFE OF MARK CAMPBELL, 34, A LEGO DEMONSTRATOR AT HAMLEYS IN LONDON. THIS WEEK, OVER 80,000 CUSTOMERS VISIT EVERY DAY. MARK, A DESIGN GRADUATE, HAS WORKED THERE FOR SEVEN YEARS. HE LIVES IN FOREST HILL, SOUTH LONDON, WITH HIS WIFE MONIQUE

People say I've got Peter Pan syn- wanting to exchange some toys. things - interactive Lego; Lego drome - that I'm a boy who can't She just kept saying "I no want", over which links up to your computer. The in the world. I get paid to play with toys all day. What could be better?

I wasn't even on the rota today, but I popped in to say hello and help out with some new Lego Mindstorm games which we've got in. I only meant to stay an hour, but as soon as I walked onto the shop floor I was mobbed. People realise you're a demonstrator and suddenly very re surrounded by customers with their questions.

I did some last-minute Christmas shopping in the afternoon, and went Tuesday back home to put my feet up.

The day started just like it always does with a coffee at Charing Cross Station. The guy at the counter knows exactly how I like it - vanilla and sugar - and it sets me up for the morning until the tea break at 11.30.

Today was mayhem. Some days you understand what it must be like to work in MacDonalds: it's nine hours of constant noise, kids, panemonium. I have this trick to keep me calm – I force myself to smile for 10 seconds, even if I'm feeling miserable or stressed. Those 10 seconds usually give me just enough time to mellow out again.

A sweet Oriental woman came in nowadays you can get amazing

goods weren't even from Hamleys, they were from Harrods. I was shouting "Harrods" at her She was shouting "Hamleys" at me. "You go Knightsbridge," I said. It went on for ages, but in the end we sorted it. Loads of the customers don't speak English. You get very good at miming what you're trying to say.

People ask the most daft questions. "Where's the fourth floor?" was today's classic.

I came in early at 8.30am to tidy up the floor after the hysteria from the day before. During the night, people come in to re-stock the shelves, but there's usually stuff that needs to be

You'd be amazed at the mess people leave. They'll tear open a box, have a look at the toy and if they decide they don't want it, just leave it

I spent the rest of the day showing people how all the new Lego games work. I used to work in the skate department - my job was to skate around the store all day. When they put me on to Lego, I wasn't sure what I was in for I thought Lego was just boring red and white bricks. But Wars Lego to tie in with the prequel next year. We've already had people ringing up about it.

Anyway, today I was on my hands and knees showing people how all the stuff works. A seven-year-old kid came up to me and said, "I can do it better than you", which was a bit humiliating. We also had this Dutch guy who bought eight Lego Mindstorms for his staff. At £160 each, it was the best sale of the day.

Loads of men in their thirties come in and ask about the Lego. I've even served men who look like 50year-old bankers in suits. Sometimes, they pretend that their kids are the ones who are interested, but you can tell by the look on their faces that it's really them.

I went to see a heavy metal band called Rob Zombie in the evening. They were playing at the Astoria club and they were great. You can't turn up to a gig like that in your Lego Tshirt, so I got changed at work into "normal" clothes and went straight from the store.

Wednesday

Today was Furby day. We got a delivery, and by the time I was in at 8.30am there were already dozens



of them had actually stood out there all night.

We'd tried to keep everyone calm by handing out tickets, and explaining that customers were only allowed one Furby each, but when it came to it there was just over-thetop insanity wherever you looked. People running into the shop shouting "I need a Furby!". I was even offered money by one bloke who

arrived after we'd sold out. It amazes me how passionate

of people queuing up outside. Some people get. You'd think the world has screen television. I'll always watch gone mad. But, on the other hand, these people just want to buy their

children exactly what they want. It's a good mood again. Christmas, and nothing else matters. By the end of the day, my feet really ached. You're supposed to wear smart polished shoes but sometimes I'll wear Doc Martens instead. When you're standing up all day, your feet feel like murder by the time you get home. I was exhausted when I got in, so I watched an Eddie Izzard video on my new wide

comedy if I'm feeling stressed out. It usually does the trick, and I'm in

Thursday

We started getting calls for F117 fighter plans today, and B52 bombers. It took a few seconds to catch on to why, but kids had seen stuff on television about bombing in Iraq and suddenly they get it into their heads that they want to act out what's been happening.

It's been really busy over the last few days on the Lego floor. Last week we took £46,000 in the Lego de-

partment alone, and it looks like we'll match that this week too. In the evening, Monique and I went to see Boy George and Culture Club. I was a bit embarrassed to admit to people that I was going -"It was my wife's idea" I kept saying. But I was amazed. I had a really great time.

INTERVIEW BY LOUISE FRANCE

How Dick Barton invented the soap star

Post-war Britain was addicted to 'Dick Barton, Special Agent' but it all ended in tears in a row over pay. John Crace met the actor who walked out



outside Cardiff to visit Noel theatre's great and good, but if friendly septuagenarian whom I stop to ask for directions. Er, yes I did actually. In fact, that's wby I'm here. Even though he has spent a lifetime in theatre and television, he is still best known for the title role in Britain's first soap sensation, the radio series Dick Barton, Special Agent more than 50 years ago.

If Johnson is annoyed by this, he doesn't show it, and launches into his wellrehearsed Dick Barton patter. How he was delighted at the thought of a regular income even if it was only £18 a week. How they all used to laugh out loud at the absurdity of some of the scripts. Yet there is no Dick Barton memorabilia on view in his flat. There are photos of him in various stage productions

Johnson. "Did you know he Barton's in there, he's in deep was Dick Barton?" says a cover This is partly modesty at 82 years old, Johnson's got better things to do than create a shrine to himself - but it may also reflect a lingering ambivalence about Dick Barton.

These days, actors are happy to become identified as a fictional character in a longrunning soap, as it guarantees them a life of C-list celebrity stardom. But Johnson was the first person to whom this happened. He became famous simply because of the character he played. To the public he was Dick Barton. This made him uncomfortable, primarily because his acting talents went unrecognised, but also because of the prevailing snobbishness

within the profession. "I was aware that Val Gielbrother of the more famous

I'VE COME to a small village and umpteen biogs of the John] always hated the show fact we had a youth audience. for being so downmarket."

Johnson had been a wellestablished actor for more than 10 years before he was offered the part of Barton by the producer Martyn Webster. "Once I had made sure I

could still do other work, I eagerly accepted," he says. "Even though the money was

poor, it was still regular work." First broadcast on 7 October 1946 within months, millions of listeners were tuning in. Dick and many producers wouldn't Barton became a phenomenon. It was anticipated that the show would attract an exclusively adult audience, but it rapidly became essential listening for a generation of children. Good news for the ratings was bad news for Johnson.

"Barton was a proper character at first," he says. "He drank, he smoked and had a gud [BBC's head of drama and girlfriend. As soon as the producers cottoned on to the

they felt they had to become moral guardians."

Out went all the interesting vices. Despite feeling Barton had been emasculated, Johnson was never less than professional, week-in, weekout for two and a half years, he did just that. But if the public was lapping it up, Johnson was less than enthusiastic. His voice had become so familiar that he had become type-cast touch him: the well-paid commercial spinoffs were artistically unsatisfying; worst of all, he felt that the BBC didn't want to dilute its best asset and was preventing him from getting other work without offering

any compensation. So Johnson did the unthinkable. He left. "I went straight into a West End play," he said. "Needless to say it flopped."

The BBC, meanwhile, tried

to make him change his mind. "They asked me to name my price. I said: '£100 per week.' They said: 'It sounds like you want danger money.' 'That's precisely what I want,' I replied. And that was the end of it."

Johnson went on to make many theatre and TV appearances, most recently in A Dance to The Music of Time and A Touch of Frost.

But nothing he has done has brought him anything approaching the recognition of Dick Barton. So does Britain's first soap star, who made next to nothing out of it, feel when he sees EastEnders actors making a small fortune? "I've never watched EastEnders," he replies. Noel Johnson always was one of the old school.

A stage version of 'Dick Barton, Special Agent' is on at the Warehouse Theatre, Croydon (0181-680 4060)

Professor Paul L. Hancock

PAUL L. HANCOCK was a geologist who latterly added the analysis of classical ruins to the repertoire of stratagems he amassed during a bustling life in order to trace the fracture and buckling of the Earth's crust.

He was mindful of the danger of reading too much into toppled columns and cracked architraves, but did not therefore dismiss archaeological evidence as ambiguous nor cite it merely for decoration. Instead he characteristically embarked, not many months ago, on a programme of research with colleagues in civil engineering and computer science to determine the kind of damage which was unambiguously seismic. A blunt, undiscriminating weapon would thereby become a sensitive and revealing probe with which to extend the lamentably short instrumental and documentary earthquake record, and thus make possible the assessment of seismic risk in locations where major earthquakes are spaced millennia apart.

A search for ever greater refine ment marked the studies of more conventional structural geology that occupied the bulk of Hancock's career, starting with a PhD thesis entitled "A Structural Analysis of the Orielton Anticline, Pembrokeshire" through the many publications and lectures that were to follow, but always set against the grander regional setting: in the Alps, the Pyrenees, Arabia, the Aegean, Taiwan and the United States, as well as in Scotland, Wales and the

West Country. Hancock was born in 1937, in London. Educated at Sheen Grammar School and at Durham University, be was awarded a first class degree in geology. He gained his PhD in 1963. Following two years as DSIR (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research) Research Fellow in Cambridge he was appointed assistant lecturer in geology at Nottingham College of Technology and as lecturer in geology at Strathclyde and (in 1967) at Bristol, where he remained for the rest of his life.

Mindful of the danger of reading too much into toppled columns, he embarked on research to decide what damage was unambiguously seismic

Hancock was awarded the Lyell Fund of the Geological Society of London in 1978. He was promoted to Reader in 1981 and was elected to a personal Chair in 1995.

Hancock's own view of his scientific progress emphasised an early interest in brittle rock deformation when its study was not yet fashion-

able and his later switch from ancient structures to those currently deforming during earthquakes. which took him to an area where his studies were to become classics the Aegean. And it was here that the research into historical earthquakes gained chronological preci-

travertine, the spring-laid calcare-ous deposits which sometimes per-mit the extent and age of later faults to be established. the ideas of others could blossom one might wish he had done less for his subject in this tangential way

A further development, which fruitfully fused his experience of rock fracturing and active deformation. was to use such fractures as clues to the pattern of stresses that prevails in a specified area. This work was of evident importance not just to seismologists but also to ge-ologists engaged in evaluating petroleum reservoirs.

Hancock combined great dignity with affability, and dedication to his work with a generosity of spirit which doubtless helped him endure, and perhaps even enjoy, the countless international commissions, editorial boards and committees on which he selflessly sat.

He was an invited or keynote speaker at a dozen scientific conferences and gave papers at some 40 others. He attended a similar number of research colloquia round the world. He edited and rewrote sion from his fascination with countless manuscripts so that

so that he could have profited it more lastingly by setting down his ideas in greater detail. But his own assessment reveals that to damn conferences and commissions as the enemies of academic promise is a mean and short-sighted perspective; Han-cock proudly listed in his CV some of the devices by which he had promoted international scientific collaboration and exchange, his contribution to an annual Erasmus advanced school in Italy, and his successful collaboration with archaeological colleagues at Bristol. Indeed, he lists yet more chores and responsibilities among his honours and rewards.

A fine teacher, Hancock filled visiting professorships at Al Ain, Bahia Blanca, Istanbul, Florence, Alberta and Reno. A lasting monument to his industry is the Journal of Structural Geology, which he founded in 1978. (Not content with this, he later co-founded Annales Tectoni-

cae, an English-language journal devoted to the countries bordering the Mediterranean.) There are also eight books which he co-edited and two, including Continental Defor-mation (1994), which he edited solo.

His 59 research articles include important studies of strain analysis, earthquake prediction, the North Anatolian fault, and travertine at Pamukkale in Turkey. The proceedings of a conference on Volcanoes, Earthquakes and Archaeology that he helped to convene in 1997 are in the press. His ideas will be developed and his ideals cherished by the research students from the UK and Turkey, Arabia, Greece, Spain and Lebanon who were to become Hancock's collaborators and champions.

CLAUDIO VITA-FINZI

Paul Lewis Hancock, geologist: born London 26 March 1937; Lecturer in Geology, Bristol University 1967-81, Reader 1981-95, Professor of Neotectonics, 1995-98; twice married (one son, one daughter); died Bristol 9 December 1998.

Adrian Ryan

ADRIAN RYAN was the most unassuming of painters. He enjoyed the friendship and respect of many better-known artists - among them John Minton, Francis Bacon, Peter Lanyon and Patrick Heron - but he never sought worldly success, and so was not accorded the recognition he undoubtedly deserved. He belonged to an old-fashioned,

gentlemanly school that found something vulgar in the overt pursuit of sales: he never painted solely to appease his critics or his public. He was a genuinely modest and self-effacing man, and was quietly amused to be given a Gulbenkian prize awarded specifically to neglected artists.

Ryan was born in Hampstead in 1920; his childhood was divided between the family homes of Hintle-sham Hall in Suffolk, and Villa Santa Lucia at Cagnes-sur-Mer. Both his parents were painters, and his father, Vivian Ryan, who was deaf and dumb, particularly encouraged him. After Eton. he trained briefly as an architect before joining the Slade during its wartime evacuation in Oxford.

Excused military service on medical grounds, he was able to set himself up as an artist whilst most of his contemporaries were still in uniform. His first studio in Tite Street was shared with Augustus John's son Edwin. and one of his most important early alliances was formed in Chelsea with Matthew Smith. These two unlikely campaigners once went electioneering in Hartlepool for a wealthy Liberal patron of Smith's, Ryan acting as chauffeur and Smith squeaking high-pitched exhortations to the voters.

Ryan was taken up by Rex Nan Kivell at the Redfern Gallery, who gave him his first exhibition in 1943; four more followed during the next decade. One of the first to buy his work was the painter and collector Edward Le Bas, whose support conferred an enviable degree of distinction on the young artist.

Like Le Bas, Ryan inherited enough money - in his case from his grandfather, Sir Gerald Ryan - to build an impressive collection of pictures, predominantly of the French painters with whom he felt a special affinity including Bonnard, Modigliani, Utrillo and Soutine. In this he was encouraged notably by his sketchbooks in which to record imfriend Eardley Knollys, from whose



purchases were made.

Later the failure of his brother's ambitious farming projects obliged him to disperse the collection, and also to seek a regular income from teaching. He joined the staff of Goldsmiths' College in 1948, and taught at Cambridge College of Art. He was a committed, if taciturn, tutor who preferred to give individual advice, and was as often to be found in a nearby pub as in the teaching studios. He retired in 1983.

Ryan was a natural and prolific painter, who never contemplated a life away from the easel, nor travelled abroad without a clutch of pressions for later translation on to

Storran Gallery many of his canvas. Because he lived and worked at Mousehole in Cornwall for two periods - from 1945 to 1951 and from 1959 to 1965 - he was often associated with the nearby colony of artists at St Ives. He had many links there - in particular with Peter Lanyon, Sven Berlin and Patrick Heron, who had been one of his first champions in the New Statesman and elsewhere - and he exhibited in the third and last exhibition of the Crypt Group, the breakaway faction of the St Ives Society of Artists, in 1948. But Ryan was unimpressed by his friends' enthusiasm for abstraction, and he continued to paint, away from the excitement for Ab-

stract Expressionism, in an idiom

derived from the Ecole de Paris.

and later Suffolk were rendered in vivid colour, and with free, expressive brush strokes. Still-lifes provided his favourite subjects (he wrote a short handbook on still-life painting) - delicious assemblies, in particular of oysters, crayfish, herrings and other seafood, which sometimes betray an unexpected undertone of disquiet.

These he showed regularly with the London Group and at the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibitions. He was given exhibitions at the Minories in Colchester in 1964 and 1985: and latterly two shows under the auspices of the National Trust, "A Kettle of Fish" at Sutton House in London in 1994 and "Four Seasons"

Landscapes of Cornwall, France at Petworth the following year, introducing him to a new audience. Although his work was bought by the Tate Gallery and by public museums abroad, much of the best remains in private hands. A full retrospective is certainly overdue.

Adrian Ryan's easy charm and dry, ironic humour were appreciated by many. He could be free with his affections, but he never lost the loyalty of his former lovers. He is survived by all three of his wives and by three daughters.

JAMES BEECHEY

Adrian James Ryan, painter: born London 3 October 1920; thrice married (three daughters); died London 15 December 1998.



Dame Unity Lister

UNITY LISTER was a formidable Tory matron who liked to smoke large and expensive cigars. She was a long-serving member of the London County Council and its successor body, the Greater London Council - from 1949 to 1983, and as Deputy Chairman in 1963-64 - and a passionate believer in Britain's place at the centre of Europe. To this end she served as a member of the executive of the European Union of Women from 1971, and was a member of the European Movement and the Conservative Group for Europe.

In 1970, when I was working at the Conservative Research Department. I was detailed to act as secretary to an outfit of which I had never heard. The outfit was the Conservative Outside Organisations Womens Committee, and its matron was Unity Lister. Somewhat to my surprise I found her to be a woman possessed both of steely

intelligence and immense charm. The immediate purpose of the committee was to encourage Tory women to join non-party organisations with charitable purposes and to express the party's view on all matters connected with social wel-



Varley, then a senior functionary at Conservative Central Office, who had noted that Labour activists - and Labour views - seemed over-influential in non-political organisations.

Joan Varley and I were paid party officials. But the public faces of the committee - and the two who exercised its real muscle - were Unity Lister and Sarah Morrison. They had the inestimable advantage of enjoying the complete trust of the party leader, Edward Heath, Lister because of her fare. It was the brainchild of Joan marked Europhilia, Morrison be-

cause of her extensive knowledge of matters concerned with the operation of the Welfare State.

With the influence of these formidable women behind it, the committee's remit was steadily extended, and included the drafting of the Tory response to Barbara (now Lady) Častle's Equal Opportunities Bill and the preparation of the party's argument for entry into the (then) European Economic Community.

Unity Webley was born at Woolrich in 1913, the daughter of a docShe presided over the debate with humour and aplomb, but also with the strict sense of control which marked all her public appearances

tor. Her mother was a fervent Quaker, and she thus grew up imbued with the ideals of public service. Her wider consciousness was expanded by attendance at a French finishing school and, later at the Sorbonne. She had a particular facility for foreign languages, and this earned her an important post in the Military Censor's

office during the Second World War. In 1940 she married an old school friend, Sam Lister, a mechanical engineer who ran a small family firm nanufacturers. Her husband had

a keenly developed interest in local government, and became a Woolwich councillor. When it was suggested that he stand for the LCC, however, he demurred, and proposed his wife instead. She was duly elected in 1949 and served as an exceptionally effective deputy

chairman between 1963 and 1964. This apprenticeship served her well when she came to face her greatest opportunity in political life, which was also her greatest trial. She had, over the years, risen effortlessly through the voluntary ranks of her party and, in 1971, was chairman of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, and thus had the duty of taking the chair at

the party conference that year. The job of conference chairman in 1971 was a peculiarly difficult one. On the one hand, the exhibitration born of an unexpected general election vic-tory in 1970 had not worn off. On the other, the party was riven by doubts about the wisdom of the leadership's policy for entry into the EEC, doubts fuelled by the passionate rhetoric of the foremost political orator of the

day, Enoch Powell. Lister presided over the fervent and turbulent debate on European policy - there were 125 amend-

ments to the substantive motion with humour and aplomb, but also with the strict sense of control which marked all her public appearances. Not least because of her efficacy the policy of the Government was carried by a resounding majority. She was rewarded the following year by being appointed DBE.

One of the first things I - and many others - found in working with Unity Lister was her utter lack of pomposity. She exercised great authority, but she never pulled rank. She could - and did - use great charm, but she never cajoled. She had a marked force of personality, but she never used it to browbeat an opponent. However, if one left her company having disagreed with her, one was left with a feeling of sadness that one had disappointed her.

Unity Viola Lister, politician: born attractive feature," London 9 June 1913; Member, LCC 1949-65, GLC 1965-83, Deputy Advisory Committee 1966-69; Chairman, National Union of Conserva-1970-71; married 1940 Samuel Lister died Rye, New York 4 December

Hazel Bishop

TO THE pleasure of women everywhere and that of many stray husbands (aithough not necessarily at the same time or for the same reasons), Hazel Bishop's greatest achievement, in a life that saw success in business, finance and academics, was cooking up the first kissproof lipstick ("stays on you . . . not on him") in a kitchen fitted out as a laboratory.

It was soon after the Second World War that Bishop, a trained chemist, developed a non-drying, non-irritating, long-wearing lipstick. Her revolutionary formulation contained high amounts of staining dves called bromo acids and in 1950, she formed Hazel Bishop Inc to manufacture and sell her discovery.

"Never again need you be embarrassed by smearing friends, children, relatives, husband, sweetheart," the early advertising said, noting that older formulations tended to leave marks on glasses, cigarettes and teeth. Moreover, the new brand did not have to be applied several times a day.

When it was introduced, at \$1 a tube, it found instant public acceptance and soon captured 25 per cent of the fast-growing lipstick market, setting the company on a collision course with Revion in what became known as "the lipstick wars". However, Bishop was locked in a feud with her company's majority shareholder and left the company in 1954 in settlement of a lawsuit. She set up Hazel Bishop Laboratories to produce household and personal care products, but ran into more legal problems with her former partner and lost the right to sell or promote products

under her own name. Bishop then became, by turns, a stockbroker, a financial analyst specialising in cosmetics companies. and finally, in 1980, she took up the Revion Chair in Cosmetics Marketing at the Fashion Institute of Technology in Manhattan.

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Hazel Bishop was born in Hoboken, New Jersey, in 1906. Her father ran a dozen successful businesses from shops along the town's main street. On one occasion, he brought Santa Claus to town on an elephant to advertise his sweet shop. "The family talk around the dinner table always concerned business," Bishop recalled.

After graduating from Barnard College in Manhattan, New York, Bishop planned to go to medical school, but the stock market crash forced her to take a job with a dermatologist, investigating allergies and cosmetics.

During the Second World War she worked as an organic chemist for what is now Exxon, where she discovered the cause of deposits affecting superchargers of aircraft engines.

She was a demure woman with hazel eyes and a weakness for hats, and never married. During her courting years, she explained, she had felt the obligation to keep her widowed mother company. Yet the woman who invented kissable lipstick and always mixed her own was able to offer sage advice.

"Women should use make-up to accentuate their most attractive feature," she said. "After the age PATRICK COSGRAVE of 25 or thereabouts, personality becomes an increasingly more

EDWARD HELMORE

Chairman 1963-64: OBE 1958, DBE Hazel Bishop, chemist: born 1972; Chairman, Women's National Hoboken, New Jersey 17 August 1906; Revion Professor of Cosmetics Marketing, Fashion Institute tive and Unionist Associations of Technology. New York 1980-87;

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END REVIEW

Morris Udall

MORRIS UDALL came close to winning the Democratic nomination for president in 1976. In no fewer than six Primary elections he came second. sometimes by very narrow margins, so that Jimmy Carter won the nomination.

Udall served in the House of Representatives for 30 years, and frequently challenged the leadership of both parties. He was a strong liberal in the western tradition, with a particular interest in environmental issues. He was a pioneer opponent of the tobacco industry and as early as 1963 proposed legislation that could have put cigarette manifacturers under the control of the Federal Food and Drug Administration.

He was a leading campaigner for reform of election finance laws and drafted and led the campaign for the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, He was also in favour of a national health insurance system.

"Mo" Udali was a rugged westerner who looked the part - he was 6ft 5in tall - and came from rugged western Mormon stock. His greatgrandfather led the first Mormons out of Utah into what was then the Arizona territory. His father, Levi Udall, started out digging ditches, became a successful farmer, qualified as a lawyer, and served for years on the Arizona Supreme Court, ending up as the state's chief justice.

Mo was one of five children of Levi and Louise Udall. His mother published a book about the life of a Hopi Indian woman. His older brother Stew served in Congress, then resigned to be President John F. Kennedy's secretary of the interior.

When Mo was five years old his eye was injured by a boy he was playing with. At that time his father could not afford proper medical care, so he was taken to a country doctor who was "mostly drunk" and treated the eye with poultices. The eye became infected and was eventually lost.

In spite of his handicap, Udall volunteered for the army air force, where he reached the rank of captain and served in the South Pacific. It wasn't until he got into the army that he got the first decent glass eye he had had; unlike its primitive predecessors, it matched the colour of his good eye.

He commanded an all-black unit in Louisiana for two years, an experience that, he later said, "really shaped my life". Fighting his men's battles against the routine discriminations of the Deep South in those days, coming on top of his own personal bandicap, turned him into a quiet but very determined, even radical fighter for a fairer society.

After leaving the army he went to the University of Arizona, where he was elected president of the student body and, in spite of the loss of one eye, played intercollegiate basketball. Later played briefly as a professional the Denver Nuggets, before going to law school and setting up as a lawyer in Tucson in partnership with his brother Stewart.

Udall became a congressman in a special election called after his broth-



Udall sporting a beard after a six-day trip down the Colorado River in 1967

The experience of commanding an all-black unit in Louisiana, he said, 'shaped my life'. The routine discriminations, coming on top of his own personal handicap, turned him into a radical fighter for a fairer society

er joined the Kennedy Administration. As soon as he arrived in Washington he disclosed his personal finances, something most unusual at the time, and he campaigned for greater transparency and for reform of the law on campaign finance. The reforms incorporated in the 1971 Federal Election Campaign Act, of which he was a major sponsor, played an important part in exposing the Nixon administration's casual attitude to campaign finance and thus led to the Watergate scandal.

unseating of the black congressman Adam Clayton Powell, accused of financial impropriety, on the grounds that it would constitute an injustice to his Harlem constituents. He also expressed "a deep-seated and conscientious disagreement" with his own Mormon church over its segregationist policies towards black people.

In the 1970s he also campaigned against "strip mining", unregulated open-cast mining, and although his bill was twice vetoed by President Gerald Ford, it passed in 1977, saving millions of acres of land. And in the 1980s, already a sick man, he led the campaign against drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.

Twice in the 1970s Udall campaigned In 1967 Udall refused to vote for the to be Speaker of the House of Representatives, and again to be majority leader, the number two leadership position, but in each case without success. He was however a genuinely serious candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1976, even Washington DC 12 December 1998.

though he later wrote a book about his experience called Too Funny to Be President (1988).

He was in fact a very funny man, with a dry western sense of humour and a nice ability to make jokes against himself. He was much in demand in Washington as an after-dinner speaker. When already seriously ill with Parkinson's disease he compared that horrible condition to a woman called Paula Parkinson who was starring in a contemporary sexand-lobbying scandal: "They both keep you up at night," he quipped, "and they both give you the shakes.

The last years of his life were rather terrible. He spent them in a Veterans Administration hospital in Washington DC, much of the time unconscious. One of his children. Mark Udall, has just been elected to the House of Representatives from Colorado, as has a nephew, Tom Udall of New Mexico.

GODFREY HODGSON

Morris King Udall, politician: born St Johns, Arizona 15 June 1922: member, US House of Representatives 1961-91: married 1949 Patricia Emery (three sons, three daughters: marriage dis solved 1966), 1968 Ella Royston (died 19881, 1989 Norma Gilbert; died

HISTORICAL NOTES

A conflict between justice and the law

case of Augusto Pinochet were countered by calls from leading political and economic figures in Chile, Britain and elsewhere for what seems to be a higher objective in the South American country: stability: The case illustrates the aphorism coined by Herbert Pell, the US delegate to the United Nations War Crimes Commission during the Second World War, who noted: There has always been a certain conflict between

justice and the law." There are substantial grounds and legal mechanisms for a prosecution, But there is a historic tendency among Western powers in particular to turn a blind eye to crimes against humanity, in the interests of stability. This "stability" has often little to do with justice or meaningful peace and everything to do with securing political and economic advantage for the arbitrating powers.

Historical experience suggests that reneging on justice for victims of state-sponsored crimes serves grievously to weaken the force of international law and to sow the seeds for future despotism. A pertinent example is the

genocide of the Armenian people perpetrated by the Ittihadist regime in Turkey, one of the most notorious episodes of the First World War. in which up to a million Armenians died. At the height of the killings, public outrage in

CALLS FOR justice in the Britain and America spurred the governments of Lloyd George and Woodrow Wilson to commit themselves to prosecute the Ittihadists at the war's end for "crimes against humanity and civilisation".

However, in the post-war carve-up of Turkey's Ottoman empire, the demands for justice by the Western powers were subordinated to their strategic interests of stabilising new territories in the oilrich region. By deftly playing Britain France and the US off against another, the Turks were able to get the Western powers to renege on their erstwhile commitment to establish an Armenian republic and specifically to grant amnesty to all Ittihadists involved in the genocide of the Armenians.

This ignominious betrayal not only forfeited an opportunity to underpin international law, it would serve as a precedent for a later, terrifyingly greater crime against humanity: the Jewish Holocaust. When Hitler was fleshing out his programme of racial extermination, he would often refer to the Armenian genocide, and specifically the international powers' unwillingness to do anything about it, as a crucial precedent. As early as June 1931, he is recorded as saying that the "extermination of the Armenians" had taught him to see "masses of men as mere biological plasticine"; in 1939, as his Final Solution for

the Jews was being imple-

Clinton and Islam:

eyeless in Gaza

mented the Führer was to demand, "Who still talks of the

The Nuremberg Trials are widely presumed to be a high point in international law enforcement but, as Herbert Pell and others were to note. justice was compromised even in this most beinous case of crimes against numanity. While the most prominent Nazis were convicted by the Western powers, thousands of other senior Nazis, SS commandants and Gestapo officers were to walk free. One such, the Gestapo leader Walter Rauss, who had gained promotion for his innovative use of gas trucks to murder Jewish women and children on the Eastern Front, was to enjoy a life of freedom in Chile thanks to the intercession of American Intelligence and Italian ecclesiastics.

The rationale for abrogating thorough prosecution and denazification by the Western powers was their imperative need for securing "political and economic stability" in a post-war Germany and Europe faced with a surge in anti-Fascist sentiment and widespread popularity of democratic socialism.

Who talks of the Armenians, the Jews, or indeed the disappeared of Chile?

A study of genocide and human rights, The Splendid Blond Beast' by Christopher Simpson, is published by Grove Press (£12)

GAZETTE

Bo Diddley, singer and gui-

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS

WALDEN: On 17 December 1993
Bron died peacefully at home. A
nique and irreplaceable friend.
sepected colleague of all at
B.M.I. Healthcare in Nottingham
and London. Funeral service at
St Wilfrid's Church, North
Muskham, near Newark, on
Wednesday 23 December at 2pm
followed by private interment. followed by private interment. No flowers please, donations if desired for the Nottinghamshire desired for the Nottingnausant Leukaemia Appeal may be sent to E. Gill and Sons Limited, funeral Directors, 55 Albert reet, Newark, Notting-mshire, NG24 4BQ.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

TODAY: The Household Gevalry Mounted Regiment Junts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards. 11am, TOMORROW: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 10am; 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingbam Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Irish Guards.

Announcements for BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES & DEATHS** (Births, Adoptions, Marriages Deaths, Memorial services. Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at 16.50 a line (VAT extra).

Unigate, 56; The Right Rev Lan Harland, Bishop of Carlisle, 66; Brigadier Lewis Harris, cartographer, 88; Mr Derick Heaven, High Commissioner to Jamaica, 58; Sir Brian Hill, former chairman, Higgs & Hill, 66; Mr Paul Horrocks, Editor, Manchester Evening News, 45; Mr Steven Isserlis, cellist, 40: Mr Syd Little, comedian, 56; Mr Robert Ponsonby, former Controller of Music. BBC, 71; The Marquess of Queensberry, former professor of ceramics at the Royal College of Art, 69; Dr David Bowe-Beddoe, chairman, Welsh Development Agency, 61; Sir David Rowe-Ham, former Lord Mayor of London, 63; Professor Christopher Smout, historian, 65; Lord Weir, a former Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 67; Mr Maurice White, rock singer, 57.

Agutter, actress, 46; Mr Michael Beaumont. Seigneur of Sark, 71; Lord Brabazon of Tara, former government minister, 52; Mr Billy Bragg, rock singer and songwriter, 40; Mr Simon Channing, former Chairman, London Philharmonic, 38; Sir George Coldstream QC, former Permanent Secretary to the Lord Chancellor, 91; Mr Malcolm Cooper, marksman, 51; Mr Peter Criss. rock drummer, 56; Mr Charles Denton, television and film producer, 61; Miss

Bo Derek, actress, 41; Mr

TOMORROW: Miss Jenny

BIRTHDAYS

tarist, 70; Mr Anthony **TODAY: Sir Antony Buck** Galsworthy, ambassador to China, 54; Lord Howe of QC, former MP, 70; Mr Ross Buckland, chief executive, Aberavon QC, former Cabinet minister, 72; Mr Simon Hughes, cricketer, 39; Miss Lesley Judd, actress, 52; Mr James Leasor, writer, 75: Sir Gavin Lightman, High Court judge, 59; Mr Donald Tandy, actor, 80; Baroness Thomas of Walliswood, former Chairman, Surrey County Council, 63; Miss Rachel Trickett, former Principal, St Hugh's College, Oxford, 75; Mr John Whitney, former Director-General, IBA, 68: Mr John Wilkins, editor, The Tablet, 62.

TODAY Births: Sir Stanley Unwin, publisher, 1884; Oliver Hazard Perry La Farge, writer, 1901; Sir Ralph David Richardson, actor, 1902; Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, Soviet leader, 1906; Jean Genet, playwright and essayist, 1910; Edith Piaf (Edith Giovanna Gassion), singer, 1915. Deaths: Frederick Melchior, Baron von Grimm, German statesman and wit. 1807: Joseph Mallord William Turner, painter, 1851; Sir Paul Gavrilovich Vinogradoff, lawyer and historian, 1925; Robert Andrews Millikan, physicist, 1953. On this day: the United States recognised the independence of Hawaii, 1842; in the New Hebrides, over 500 people were killed following a volcanic eruption, 1913; the German luxury liner Columbus was scuttled

1939: the British evacuated between London and Moscow began, 1957; Ted of Antioch, St Gregory of Auxerre, St Nemesius of Alexandria and St Timothy.

ANNIVERSARIES the American Union, 1860; the first London perforby her crew after being intermance of the operetta

cepted by a British destroyer. Penang, 1941; an air service Hughes was appointed Poet Laureate, 1984. Today is the Feast Day of St Anastasius I **TOMORROW** Births: Pieter de Hooch.

painter, 1629; John Wilson Croker, politician and reviewer, 1780; The Rev Edwin Abbott Abbott, headmaster and theologian, 1838; Theodore Francis Powys. novelist, 1875; Sir Robert Gordon Menzies, statesman, 1894: Lt-Gen Sir Frederick Arthur Montague Browning, 1896. Deaths: Henry Harland, novelist and editor. 1905: Emile-François Loubet.

statesman, 1929; Erich James Hilton, novelist, 1954; Moss Hart, playwright, 1961; John Ernst Steinbeck, novelist, 1968; Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco, Spanish prime minister, assassinated 1973; Artur Rubinstein, pianist, 1982; Gwen Berryman, actress ("Doris Archer"), 1983; Bill Brandt, photographer, 1983. On this day: the first General Assembly of the Church of Scotland was held. 1560; Peter the Great's reformation of the Russian calendar was announced, 1699; the last issue of the original Spectator was published, 1714; the State of Texas was incorporated in the United States, 1845; the State of South Carolina seceded from

Madame Pompadour was presented, 1923; Karl Renner became the first president of the new Austrian republic. 1945: the first atomic icebreaker, the Russian Lenin. began operating, 1959; Wladyslaw Gomulka, the Polish Communist leader, resigned office after riots by workers, 1970; Romuald Spasowski. Polish ambassador to the US, was granted political asylum in the United States, 1981; two Townsend Thoresen ferries collided off Harwich, with the loss of six lives, 1982. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Ammon and his Companions, St Dominic of Silos, St Philogonius and

LECTURES

St Ursicinus.

TODAY National Gallery: Richard Stemp, "Gifts (iii): Veronese. The Adoration of the Kings". 12 poon. Victoria and Albert Museum: Katharine Hugh "Scenes from the Nativity",

Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "Time Travellers in Art", 1pm. British Museum: Delia Pemberton, "Looking at Ancient Egyptian Sculpture" 11.30am; Delia Pemberton, "The Divine Image in

TOMORROW Victoria and Albert Museum: Charlotte Cotton, "Displaying Photographs",

Ancient Egypt", 1.30pm.

Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "Spells of Artistic Magic", 2.30pm.

Washington's myopia. While itself is not like a Christian fast; the Palestinians were grateful it is a total abstention of food THE PALESTINIANS were delirious with joy at the beginning of the week, waving the for and ecstatic about Clinton's stars and stripes. It seemed the world felt frustrated and let every Muslim in Gaza had turned out to welcome President Bill Clinton. They had come a long way from the burning of the American flag farmers, housewives, schoolwhich had been associated going children - face savage with their fathers. It was as great a revolution in political up and members of the family thinking as one could imagine. tortured. Young men are taken But by the end of the week they away by security forces and were burning it again. Clinton's presence and reare subjected to sexual ha-

ception made several important points. It emphasised once again the supremacy of the US as the single most powerful nation on earth in the last years of the century. And it pointed out the links between what is happening in the Muslim world and the politics of Washington. The US president's few

hours in Gaza endorsed and embodied the aspirations of an entire people. The Palestinians felt as if they had almost achieved their separate nation although Clinton, always the wily lawyer, said nothing to indicate this.

The president, with his mind on the impeachment proceedings developing in Washington, walked about as if he was dazed in Gaza. He brought to mind Milton's Samson, Each was, in his time and in different ways, the strongest man in the world. Like the biblical hero the US president had also "erred" and "by bad women been deceived". And of him too it might be said: "Ask for this great deliverer now and find him eyeless in Gaza". For President Clinton has a

terrible blindness when it

comes to understanding the Muslim world, as was only too evident when the bombing of Iraq began. Saddam is without doubt a ruthless military dictator. But sending in the bombers whenever Washington needs a diversion - as was earlier done in Sudan and Afghanistan - only succeeds in building sympathy among moderate Muslims for the Iraqi leader. Few Muslims will doubt that this week's bombing was linked to Clinton's impeachment proceedings. But there is another sign of

visit, Muslims in other parts of down by Washington. In both Kosovo and Kashmir thousands of ordinary people persecution. Houses are blown never return and young women rassment. The bombs on Iraq only add to the feeling that American justice is blind

FAITH & REASON

AKBAR AHMED

The decision to bomb

Iraq reveals the continuing blindness of Washington to the sensitivities of Muslims all over the world. It is a myopia which could have terrible consequences

If course, Muslims themselves inflict damage on their own people; Algeria, Sudan, Afghanistan are examples of societies tearing themselves apart. Savagery is conducted here in the name of Islam. But once again, the West is implicated - France's support in Algeria and those US air strikes on Sudan and Afghanistan. Inevitably the theme of the power of Washington in the Muslim world will be picked up in the sermons in the mosque in the coming weeks of the month of Ramadan which starts this weekend.

The month is one of the most important for Muslims, It is when Muslims tend to withdraw from the daily routine to fast, meditate and pray. The fast. I.B. Touris next month

and drink from sunrise to sunset. During the fast people also abstain from anger, gossip, sexual intercourse and more. As a result the atmosphere among Muslims tends to be charged during the month to come. It is easy to dream dreams because of the lightness of the mind and it is not surprising to see Muslims expressing religious fervour. The mosques are full and people attempt to complete the reading of the entire Koran during these weeks. For British Muslims - as for

the billion or more Muslims elsewhere in the world - the month with be a time of renewal. It will be a time when Muslims will be thinking of both pious deeds of charity and of standing up to tyranny. In both cases they will be thinking of the suffering of fellow Muslims throughout the world and that is where the contradictory messages of Gaza, of Kosovo and of Iraq will become relevant and affective.

For those in the West who think of Muslims as fanatics and extremists it is well to recall the famous chant enunciated by the Sufi master Junald of Baghdad centuries ago:

In Sufism, eight qualities must be exercised. The Sufi has: liberality such as that of Abraham; accep-tance of his lot, as Ismall accepted; patience, as possessed by Job; capacity to communicate by symbolism, as in the case of Zachariah; estrangement from his own people, which was the case with John; woollen garb like the shepherd's mantle of Moses; journeying like the travelling of Jesus ing, like the travelling of Jesus; humility, as Mohammed had humility of spirit

Young men expressing their anger by throwing grenades, killing innocent civilians in the bazaar or kidnapping Western hostages - such actions are certainly not either the teaching or the spirit of Islam. But until Washington is able to open its eyes to the impact of its policies on the Islamic world such atrocities will continue. It gives most Muslims no joy to say so. but the West needs to hear it.

Islam Today: a short introduction to the Muslim world' by Akbar Ahmed is published by Gavin Bryars' music is slow. So what? Slow rivers run deep. And in the case of his Lockerbie requiem, depth is what's called for. By Dermot Clinch

Bryars was once the mild-manavin Bryars has had operas put on at the Opéra in Paris and the Coliseum in London. His CD of Jesus' Blood Never Failed Me Yet has sold a quarter of a million copies. He calls the composers Steve Reich and Arvo Part "Steve" and "Arvo" and has dined with Jessye Norman. But at a school reunion recently there were many present who were just as successful. There was his "friend Doug, who's quite well known in his field, which is geography". There was "a British Airways pilot. There was a girl who married this guy who's a politicians. Bryars has not quite joined the staffroom, but he has Bryars lives in Wedge Cottage, bestopped throwing pencils.

hind the hairdressers, in a small village in east Leicestershire. He was at Goole Grammar School, near Hull, which is now comprehensive and, according to what he hears, more violent than it was in his day. In the old days, the thug quota was filled by Bryars himself, throwing pencils at teachers' heads and refusing to play sport until the day when he did and he "got vast scores and the highest batting average of the season". Bryars is in his mid-fifties, but takes a proud interest in his distant past, in the way of one not altogether certain about the present. He won the Goole Grammar School English prize. He and Doug "got the highest A-level grades" and his form master warned him: "You know, Bryars, you're not going to be able to get through life

with this gift for improvisation." He did, to the extent of playing double bass in a freely improvising jazz trio, and becoming one of the most widely enjoyed serious composers of his generation. He went to Sheffield university "by accident" and read philosophy. At a later date, he says, still improvising, he "drifted into vegetarianism" and also into composing. He took lessons in composition from the organist at Sheffield Cathedral, and made his own way thereafter.

nered enfant terrible of English experimentalism. This has changed. He has a publisher (he used to publish his own). He has accepted a commission for the London Sinfonietta, New Music institution par excellence. And next Monday his Cadman Requiem, a revised version of the 1989 score, this time with Renaissance viols instead of modern strings, in memory of a friend and colleague killed in the Lockerbie air crash, will be performed in Westminster Cathedral on the 10th anniversary of the disaster, to an audience of 1,000, including invited

We met in a converted garage

there are the four volumes of Charles Koechlin's Traité de l'orchestration. a chance purchase he made in Lyons.

and an unconventional choice. Half-way through our interview Bryars makes a phone call to someone he describes himself as having "developed a relationship" with, who is "coming over for Christmas, and so on". This is Anya, a Russo-Canadian film director, he explains, who was asleep in a bed in British Columbia. His six-thirty alarm call was five minutes late. When they speak. Bryars says he will be having salmon tonight. He will do it with soy sauce and ginger, her way, and will let her know whether it worked.

This seems a good time for intimate musical enquiries, and for a question about a "ping", or perhaps

cello concerto – a single note I not-

iced when listening to the piece the

night before, whose contribution to

the work's glacier-slow architec-

ture seemed out of all proportion to

its humble isolation. In the record-

ing with the cellist Julian Lloyd

Webber - whose reactionary musical

opinions Bryars does not share, but

whose commissions he warmly accepts - the ping occurs towards the

Bryars leans forward, switches on

his electronic keyboard, slips on his

half-moon glasses. Why that in-

strumentation? "Well, I have a

score." Bryars is really looking like

harp. Yes, it's this harp harmonic

here. A completely isolated note.

Why? Because the accompanying in-

struments are holding a sustained

F. Because I want to give an impe-

tus to the phrase, a sense of breath.

beginning of track seven.

Bryars, the mild-mannered enfant terrible of English experimentalism, has changed

overlooking a fishpond at the bottom "ting", to be heard towards the end of Bryars' garden. The same day, as of Furewell to Philosophy, Bryars' it happened, the Secretary General of the United Nations was meeting Colonel Gaddafi to talk about Lockerbie in a tent in the middle of the Libyan desert. The tent was "warmed by bonfires" and the Secretary General had an experience, he later said, of "spacelessness, freedom, almost mystical". He might have been describing the music of Gavin Bryars.

The garage is Bryars' studio. There are Supa brand fish flakes by the door, cigarillos marked "100 per cent tobacco" on the wide, wide desk, Bisley filing cabinets against the wall. There are the works of Wagner, Strauss and Monteverdi in score a composer now. "It could be a (Bryars has been studying Monteverdi's madrigals in preparation for his own, to poems by Blake Morrison); a digital metronome, a digital tuning-fork, a Panasonic pencil sharpener. There are handfuls of

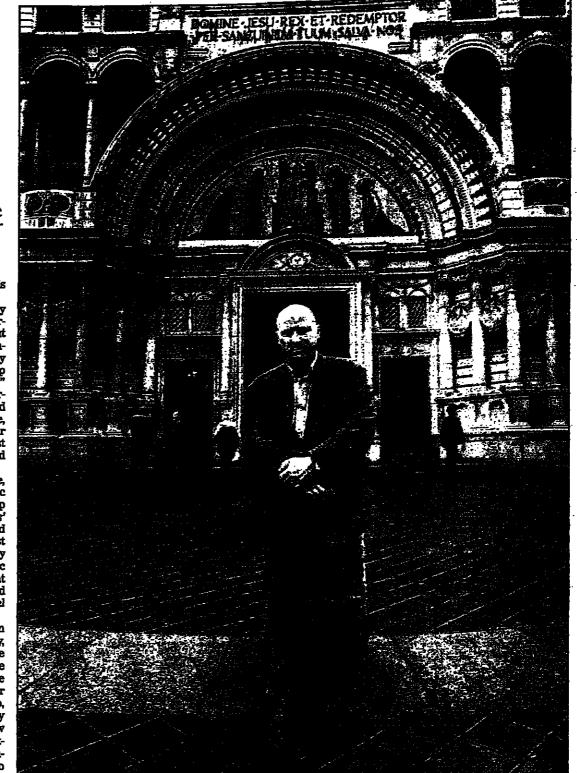
too heavy, and a harp harmonic is enough. Not too solid." Bryars taught music for many

ears, at De Montfort University, formerly Leicester Polytechnic, but his music is not academically complex. Anyone "can compose in any ivory tower. But you have to pop down the stairs at some point." Bryars describes an amateur chorister who sang a piece of his and asked for his autograph, "because, she said, I don't know any of your other music, but I think this is just lovely." Bryars is visibly moved when recalling this.

His music is harmonically simple, slow, and repetitive. One critic suggested that having first a tramp then Tom Waits groaning Jesus' Blood Never Failed Me Yet over and over for 70 minutes in Bryars' most famous piece was "monstrously turgid" and a recipe for "epic boringness". Bryars answered that if any one thought so, they should play the piece "at a very low level during dinner".

He is pragmatic. He has fallen in and out of so much, so accidentally, that he needs to be. When there were no commissions from orchestras he formed bands with friends and wrote pieces "for two pianos, six hands; or two pianos and tuba; or one piano, tuba, tenor horn. Not particularly graceful or likely, but you learnt how to make things that sound interesting." Michael Nyman, rich and conspicuously famous, came up to Bryars after his new opera this year and said: "God, how do you do that orchestration?" "It depends which books you read, Michael," Bryars says he replied, sarcastically. In fact, he remarks, it has "all got to do with experience".

Jesus' Blood has not started earning for him yet. The Sinking of the Titanic, his early hit. was not chosen for the film, Titanic. But the BBC - which played not a single work of his for 17 years - cottoned Aztec 101 Scoremaster pencils. And Because a pizzicato string would be on some time back, and his recent Michael Nyman - "an old friend" ap- back on philosophy, as he did 30 from the Barbican, 0171-638 8891



A gift for improvisation: Bryars outside Westminster Cathedral

Philip Meech

work here has been acclaimed. His parently - was "grumpy when he got opera, Dr Ox's Experiment, went the £2m for The Piano. Accept it graceobvious critical reaction, was slow. fully! I'm happy to be comfortable But all Bryars' music is slow. And and not hugely in debt." Bryars like all his music Dr Ox was wholly individual: hooting counter-tenors, plucky jazz double basses, violins like fingers squeaking on a glass's rim. How do you measure success?

gets philosophical. "Is it better to be Socrates dissatisfied than a pig satisfied? Technically it isn't - because the pig can't know what it is like to be Socrates." Then Bryars turns his

years ago in Sheffield. "I would prefer to know the source of my dissatisfaction. Personally, I would prefer to be Socrates dissatisfied."

The Hilliard Ensemble and Fretwork perform 'Cadman Requiem' at Westminster Cathedral on Monday at 8pm. Free tickets in advance

Gifts for all sorts at

A bouquet of barbed twigs

FLL SAY one thing for Joanna MacGregor - she didn't pre-tend to look pleased with the hideous sculpture of twigs and bits of gold wire she was given instead of flowers at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Tuesday.

Perhaps it echoed the theme of ironmongery in her programme, centred on John Cage's prepared piano - two instruments, to be precise: one with the elaborate array of bolts, screws and bits of rubber between the strings, specified for Cage's Sonatas and Interludes and yielding the effect of a ghostly band of bells and metallophones; the other with the simpler preparation of rubber that Cage used to simulate a small percussion group in Bacchanale.

MacGregor played the Sonatas and Interludes in the second half, bringing to these

THERE WAS a telling

moment in one episode of

Yes, Prime Minister when

Jim Hacker was asking

deterrent - could it really

A joke, you may think,

scare the Russians? Of

about the point of the

independent nuclear

enemy: the French.

relations came up for

discussion on Start the

where it was suggested

Week (Radio 4, Monday),

that the old stereotype of

perfidious Albion is alive

Paris. We fondly imagine

created bonds of loyalty

and gratitude between

that the Second World War

France and Britain; in fact,

it seems, France regards

Dunkirk as one item on a

along with the destruction

long list of betrayals,

of the French fleet at

Mers-el-Kabir, and the

embarrassment of Suez.

and well, and living in

CLASSICAL JOANNA MACGREGOR QEH. SBC LONDON

20 placid and charming pieces her own characteristic sense of impetus. Ideally, they effect a mood of stillness, and you might expect the performer to embody discreet composure. MacGregor could not forbear to amplify each modest

musical event with a gesture and the effect was just a touch condescending, unnecessary. The concert was a project, with five new pieces specially written for the more elabor-

ately prepared piano, plus tape - or tabla in one case - and, as a sort of filling between them, very short electroacoustic pieces, or soundbites, by students at Liverpool Hope Uni-

Bacchanale and another early Cage piece, The Perilous Night, were played continuously, it took a while for the audience to get their bearings.

Django Bates's You Live and Learn was identifiable from the taped vocals of his nine-year-old daughter and, if you were familiar with his work, you would soon have recognised the amiable playfulness of his style. Perhans the playfulness is becoming a bit too cute, but it did point up the humourless tedium of the other pieces.

Deirdre Gribbin recorded her tape part in a Himalayan monastery and threw over its cavernous mumblings an insistent rattling on the piano.

versity College, where Mac- Jonathan Harvey should have Gregor gave a workshop on known better than to take a prepared piano early in the work of genius - the fleeting year. Since all these, as well as last movement of Chopin's "Funeral March" Sonata - and then decompose it electronically, like an item in a guessia game. Andrew Toovey pitted syncopated stamping on tape against gamelan-like burbling on prepared piano, and Talvin Singh, on tabla, joined Mac-Gregor in what seemed like an

ear-tickling but unremarkable

improvisation. For this programme to have featured in the South Bank's International Piano Series is a sort of achievement. Very few pianists could have swung it, and even fewer could have attracted such a substantial audience. Yet as far as I'm con-cerned, it was an experiment that needn't be repeated.

THE WEEK IN RADIO

ROBERT HANKS



course not, he was told, the point was to scare the real The problem is, Paxman but there are times when it seems unsettlingly close to the truth. Anglo-French realism, the French

suggested, that where we take defeats as lessons in continue to believe in a grand global destiny, thwarted by lesser nations.

This sounds like flighty, big-headed Continentals versus sturdy British common sense - but there is hard evidence that at least some French officials still think this way. In the past few weeks, there has been the case of Major Pierre-Henri Bunel, a French officer who has admitted passing operational details of Nato air-strikes to the Serbs; and in 1994, a retired French general wrote to

Radovan Karadzic claiming that France and the Bosnian Serbs share a common cause, "the right of nations to reject German imperialism". In A Mission to Civilise? (Radio 4, Tuesday), Ofeibea Quist-Arcton is examining

France's role in Africa

France has a tradition of pouring money into its former colonies - to help democracy, according to one Frenchman. Others see the picture through less rosy spectacles. One expert, discussing France's involvement with the genocide in Rwanda, characterised their policy thus: "We are fully prepared to support dictators here and there. provided they kill

reasonably. But these guys were something else altogether; they were total psychopaths." Meanwhile. opposition politicians in Gabon complain that the presidency is, in effect, in France's gift. In return for France's support, oil flows

from Gabon to Elf, the French national oil company; and suitcases of money flow from Gabon to

French political parties. One Gabonese politician interviewed could see no problem here, so long as everybody gets a slice of the cake. But of course, not everybody does: Gabon enjoys the highest per capita income in black Africa, but ranks way down the tables on UN measures of development.

This was a disturbing programme – but not just because it exposed French corruption. As a French politician pointed out, France's African policy can be criticised, but at least it has one: the amount of aid France gives to Africa dwarfs the puny amounts this country sends, and not all of it goes into the pockets of the continent's politicians. We may be realistic; but perhaps an unrealistic sense of global destiny would have made us a bit more useful.

حكذا من الاحل

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Top M

LEVO REVIEW

EXIT POLL

THE PLAY

YOUNG VIC STUDIO

KEVIN MOLONEY

am not unnappy about it; I just feel

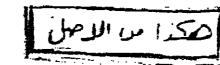
that the actors are being patronised. It doesn't have to

be like that. They

make me feel as though I am

etronising them and I feel

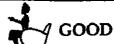
uncomfortable. I am enjoying what they are doing – I want them to do their thing. And I don't feel guilty about being here. I love to see them do it. I am just sorry there isn't a bigger audience."



THE WEEK IN REVIEW

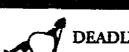
BY FIONA STURGES

EXCELLENT









understandable, the earnest tone seems to

remarked Anthony Quinn, adding, "the film

but vitality". The Guardian observed "fewer gags than Disney, and fewer funny animals.

has all the gravitas it can handle; what is

missing, ironically enough, is not weight

squeeze much of the life from the film,"

"While the fear of offending is

DEADLY

OVERVIEW

CRITICAL VIEW

scrappily portrayed at that - the Midianites' flocks would shame Hanna Barbera". The Financial Times disagreed: "It is good because it has no cute animals, no love story and no sloppy takeaway moral". "As epic, emotionally satisfying spectacle, it is way up there with the best in mainstream

animation," stated Time Out.

DreamWorks' effort may seem incomplete to those of a sentimental bent - no fluffy animals or romantic subplot though the subject matter offers scope for some suitably epic scenery.

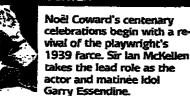
OUR VIEW

The Prince of Egypt is on nationwide release, certificate U

ON VIEW

THE PLAY PRESENT LAUGHTER

HE FILM THE PRINCE OF EGYPT



The Book of Exodus

Disney's rival, Dream-

'live-action" film that

Works, in this animated

provides the inspiration for

follows the story of Moses.

McKellen delivers a performance of combustible energy and comic timing," cried Paul Taylor, "He captures Garry wonderfully well, whether assuming a martyr's mask or clutching his heart as though it were being cruelly pecked at." "There are occasions when Malcolm Sutherland's production reaches too blatantly for laughter. But you

never forget that McKellen is bringing energy, guile and skill to one of Coward's major comedies." reflected The Times, while the Doily Mail gushed: "Sir lan's pulsating seriousness makes the character's absurdity even funnier... he manages to convey grandeur and dependency with startling originality".

triumph of sympathy and tone", while The

Sunday Telegraph was delighted: "Often,

biographies of artists add little to one's

turmoil... behind that professorial mask,

this book transforms our sense not only of

understanding of their art. This is a

splendid exception. By revealing the

Matisse but also of his work".

The uneven casting and exaggerated slapstick of Malcolm Sutherland's production are soon forgotten as Sir lan McKellen brings a magnetic energy to the role of Coward's alter ego.

One of the best biographies of

Matisse is revealing about his

an artist of recent years,

troubled life and

into the changing

nature of his art.

offers great insight

Hilary Spurling's study of

Present Laughter is at the West Yorkshire Playhouse until 23 January. For booking and enquiries, call 0113-213 7700

The Unknown Matisse

by Hilary Spurling is

published by Hamish

available in

bookshops now,

24. publisher London "It's all very well acted, very well delivered and it's

a good storyline.
It's like their
other plays; they are all very good.
This has lots of dancing. The music and the choreography are very good and so is the way the set and the costumes are simple but expressive, fitting in with the basic style of the play."

CLAIRE 46, writer. Wimbledon

"I thought it was play of theirs last year and thought it was just

brilliant. To tell their own story was a great idea. I really thought it was absolutely wonderful. What I liked most was the feeling of ensemble vithin the cast and the way that they all interacted. And the little fragment bits. It is definitely well worth seeing. I am going to recommend it to lots of people."

THE BOOK THE UNKNOWN MATISSE

THE TV PROGRAMME PERSONAL SERVICES



in this eagerly awaited biography, Hilary Spurling uncovers the tumultuous family life and precarious artistic career of the pioneer of Fauvist painting, Henri Matisse.

In the last of the series,

Personal Services goes to

South Shields to examine

the strange goings-on in a

launderette that is mostly

frequented by elderly

ladies and bachelors

"It is well known that Matisse suffered public mockery and financial insecurity, but neither the degree of misery he endured nor its varying causes have ever been uncovered in such revelatory detail." wrote Frances Spalding, continuing, "the depth and intensity of Spurling's research compel attention." The Spectator called it "a

"The washing basket is the window of the soul. That was the moral of Personal Services." said Marthew Sweet. "Posh Wosh was a social and spiritual service - a cross between a drop-in centre and the waiting room from Sartre's Huis clos." "A charming conclusion to a charming series." chimed The Daily Telegraph, while

The Guardian praised this "unprecentious little series ... in Posh Wosh you can see all the stages of living and loving and losing." "John Pitman's engaging film got under the skin of the staff and their customers, revealing the dramas that peppered their lives without tipping over from warmth into sentimentality," wrote the Evening Standard.

The docu-drama lives on, It seems that there is no satisfying our interest in other people's daily routine and being privy to the intimate details in the lives of

This edition marks the end of Channel 4's Personal Services series. Wait for them to repeat it.

A month is a long time in sexual politics

IRRITABLE LASSITUDE on a great estate; an emphasis on shifting moods rather than events; chronic vacillation singled out as the key to the human condition - we have to be talking about Chekhov, don't we? Actually no, for all these features are richly evident in A Month in the Country, the Turgenev play which anticipated Chekhov's dramatic world by some 46 years.

Michael Attenborough now revives it at the RSC using a free version by Brian Friel which gives the dialogue a lively irish rhythm. If my ears don't deceive me, though,

there's an impish touch here. Jack Tariton's baby-faced, bashfully grinning Aleksey - the tutor who bags the heart of both the bored, discontented Natalya and her young ward and unwittingly turns the household upside down before doing a bunk is played as a Scot. Anomalous, yet psychologically convincing: it is, after all, traditional wisdom that a

Scots accent could sell you anything. The critic James Agate once wrote that all that is necessary for success with A Month in the Country is the absence of a star actor and the refusal of the company to sus-

THEATRE

A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE STRATFORD

pend animation when the leading character speaks. Well, Michael Attenborough's production meets both those criteria - in the first instance rather disappointingly for those with memories of Helen Mirren matchlessly mercurial Natalya.

But this unevenly cast production suggests there is another essential requirement - the ensemble should

Much the most striking performance comes from Lloyd Hutchinson, who bares the teeth of bogus chortling jollity to hilarious effects as the low-born doctor driven to clowning for the nobs as a way of

concealing his contempt for them. Prepared to sell Natalya's ward into a grotesque marriage for three dressed loveliness, with a line in lanhorses and a wagonette, Hutchinson's quack radiates a seedy cheerfulness, as though being able to smile in the face of his moral squalor was a mark in his favour. As Vera, the young ward successively traduced by

have quirky personality in depth. Natalya, the tutor and the doctor, fulness, or solicitude. Thanks to this, Catherine Walker is also impressive. offering a heart-catching study in blighted innocence. Too many other characters are either under- or overplayed, like Jayne Ashbourne's excruciatingly pert servant.

As Natalya, Sara Stewart is a vision of creamy skinned, gorgeously guid brow-cocking irony and transparent manipulativeness. True to Turgeney's understanding of human inconsistency, she can keep us guessing from one moment to the next whether she will react with spite- Booking: 01789 295623

the scene where Natalya sounds out her ward's feelings towards the tutor comes over like a dry run for the even greater scene in Uncle Vanya between Yelena and Sonia.

Ms Stewart never convinced me that she had genuinely fallen in love with Aleksey, so the ineffable mix in the character of play acting and sincere distress lacks a vital component. An engrossing production, but a patchy one.

PAUL TAYLOR



Walker as Aleksey and Vera

SANDRA BERNHARD stalks around SoHo's gargantuan make-up emporium Sephora after two hours of signing her book May I Kiss You On The Lips, Miss Sandra?. A blonde woman tells her to look around for anything she wants, dahling.

To Bernhard passes through the crowds pressing Shiseido powder and Clarins lipliner to their wrists - as her new book's cover art emphasises. Bernhard's own lips are to lipstick as Stevie Nicks's eyes are to tasselled shawls.

Sandra goes over to the Naturopathica section aisle and has a moment with the concept of evening primrose cream in a tiny jar for \$35. It's an expensive, natural, genteel product and, as such, bears resemblance to the new Sandra Bernhard Once a lovably nasty, emaciated character actress (The King of Comedy and, more recently, her cultfavourite film and show Without You, I'm Nothing), Bernhard's odd fame arose from her dramatisations of desperation for fame. Now, a "centred" Bernhard closes her new

THOSE LIFETIME achievers

are getting younger. There

was a time when you had to

The Table

NEW YORK



when the host asked imbecilic questions about her "anger".

cent motherhood (in a classic New York scenario, l'enfant lives in its own studio upstairs from hers in the West Village)? While her 100-minute show is still the type of fare The New York Times finds outrageous (it seems New York's newspaper of record will call anything "edgy"), in truth Bernhard's latest act has as many edges as a if the perfume cK one were a pals, as you read this.

lic is really retro".

But would Bernhard's Broadway audience of greyhairs (albeit dyed various festive reds and expensive blondes) have chuckled at anything more grating than the gentler stuff she served them in her latest act? After all, they didn't laugh at her show's best

All around New York, comedians are clamouring for the Bernhard mantie, Comedy's Razor's Edge, asking whether they are beautiful or monstrous and whether the audience is as virulently angry as they are. In dinky Off-Off Broadway clubs, the children of Bernhard practise her cruel craft: a liberal arts grad who lovingly, horribly imitates the Eighties band The Dream Academy; a "post-feminist" singer with harsh words for her model (she's the real thing while Sandra's the phony); a leather-clad, self-proclaimed "bitch" who digs around in her pants for articles she will sneer at during her evening's performance. One mean-spirited prankster even Hanukkah with Monica.

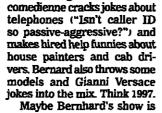
Is the reconstructed Sandra composing any Lilith-like Hanukkah tunes this year? She's probably too busy lighting the last of the week's candles in a designer menorah,

The bitch has backed off stick of designer incense. The person, it would be a throatslashing, sodomising rapist. comedienne cracks jokes about

ALISSA QUART Broadway show, I'm Still Here... Damn It!, with the refrain "God is good". She even bit her tongue on a talk show

What's changed? Is it her re-

DIARY



kinder and more tired because she's no longer jonesing for stardom. Now she's insulated by it. Still, she could riff forever on the new meaning of the phrase "retro". After serving as an honorific from the mid-Seventies until last month, "retro" is suddenly being used as a derogatory term. As in the phrases, "Ugh, how retro!" or "Betrayal of the American pub-

joke, one where she imagined surrounded by her glammy

ARTS DIARY

have been performing in the

Fifties, Sixties or the glam end of the Seventies. But I gather that the Eurythmics are to get the special award at next year's Brits. And if they seem a little recent to have notched up a lifetime's achievement, there is at least the consolation that Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart will perform together in public for the first time in eight years at the ceremony. As an encouragement to Dave and Annie to stick it out this time, new figures on this year's earnings show the oldies wiping the floor with the younger upstarts. Top of the list are the Rolling Stones who earned \$200m from their world tour, more than four times as much as U2 in second place. Can't think why

Mick Jagger hasn't got a big grin all over his face.

THE CULTURE Secretary. Chris Smith, and the Arts Council chairman, Gerry Robinson, have made much of lottery grants going to the north and the importance of the arts in the north. It seems that by north they meant north London. The Prime Minister and the Culture Secretary both attended the opening of the new Sadler's Wells, along with the Arts Council chairman and secretary general. But the lotteryassisted reopening of the Manchester Royal Exchange theatre after the IRA bomb damage drew none of these luminaries. The Arts Council drama director, Anna Stapleton, and lottery arts director, Prue Skene, flew the flag. Mr Blair and Mr Smith should try Manchester. You turn left at Islington High Street and head north.

ON THE subject of Sadler's Wells, it seems I am not alone in finding the seats uncomfortable. Mr Rufus Isaacs from Gerrards Cross, Bucks, has written in to say that only travelling economy on a jumbo jet equates. He adds: "The seats are far too narrow, the arm-rests inadequate, as is the legroom. I was constantly being kicked in the back by the person behind". But apart from that, Mr Isaacs, how did you enjoy the show?

CRONYISM DOES have its drawbacks. After announcing the Arts Council grants on Thursday, thereby making

sworn enemies of dozens of companies from the RSC downwards, the Council chairman, Gerry Robinson, muttered: "People say I got this job because I've been friendly to the Labour Party. If they reward their friends by asking them to sort out the Arts Council, they soon won't have any left".

SIR DAVID Spedding, head of MI6, has invited Dame Judi Dench for Christmas lunch, so that M of the Bond films and her real-life counterpart, C, can swap thoughts. But they won't learn much. Dame Judi doesn't write her script, and Sir David will surely adopt a different persona for lunch with an actress than that familiar to his agents. But it's comforting to know that the head of MI6 is a groupie at heart.



Hark the herald angels whinge

So did your favourite modern authors enjoy their pudding and crackers? Pull the other one, writes Jeremy Lewis

n December 1958, Philip Larkin wrote, festive as ever: "What an awful time of vear this is! Just as one is feeling that if one can just hold on, if it just won't get any worse, then all this Christmas idiocy bursts upon one like a slavering Niagara of nonsense".

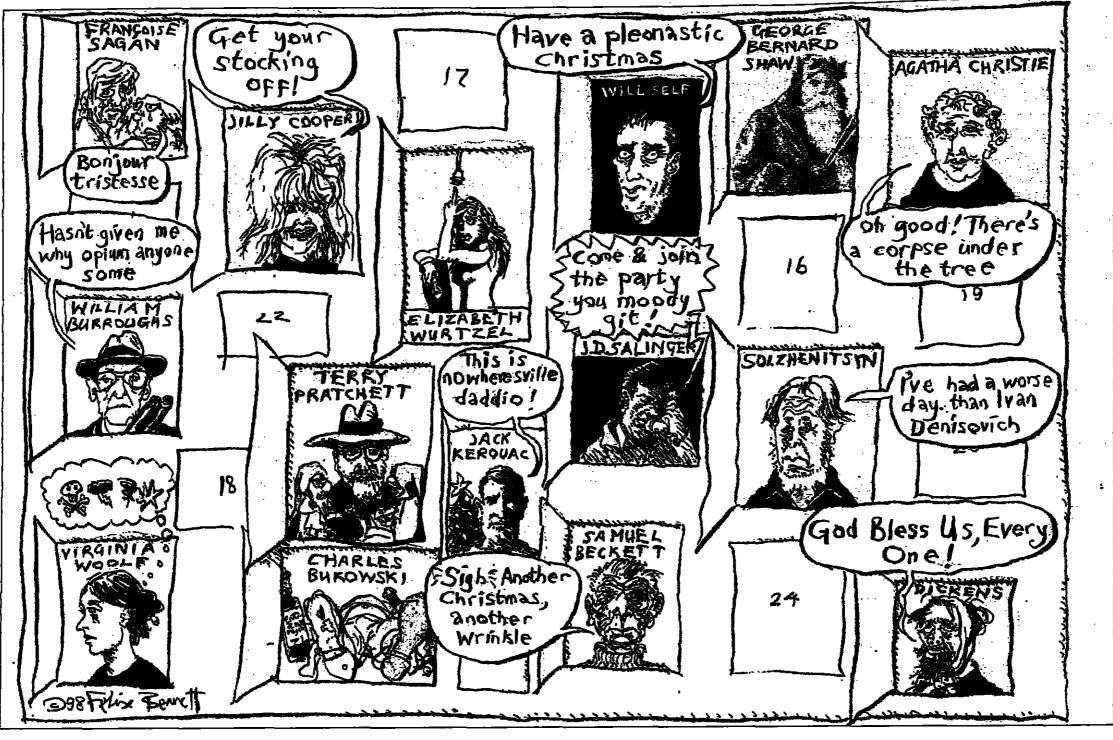
Despite Dickens' best endeavours ("That man must be a misanthrope indeed, in whose breast something like a jovial feeling is not roused by the recurrence of Christmas") the Season of Good Will seems to have an equal and opposite effect on many literary folk, who have a way of articulating feelings (often unworthy) common to us all.

"Christmas is upon us. Oh Lord preserve us," sighs the diarist Frances Partridge, while Stephen Spender sagely observes that "This part of winter becomes every year more like a dark tunnel one enters about 15 December, not to emerge until after New Year". Widespread sentiments, it seems, in the republic of letters, the citizens of which grudgingly push typewriters aside to partake in last-minute presentbuying, gorging themselves rigid, affecting paroxysms of pleasure and surprise, trying to be kind to dull or unwanted relations, and seeking oblivion via the bottle.

Christmas 1959 was, for Frances Partridge, "as usual a gruelling endurance test for almost everyone - except the children, who moved like ecstatic ghosts among mountains of parcels, toys, books, television sets and Balmain fur coats'. One of the side-effects of wartime shortages had been to simplify the business of buying presents. In 1941, Vita Sackville-West gave Harold Nicolson an alarm-clock which failed to go off, and he spent the rest of the day "sitting indoors feeling rotten".

Lunching with the formidable dame Una Pope-Hennessy on Christmas Day two years later, James Lees-Milne gave his hostess, her two sons and Nancy Mitford a small bar of soap each, shaped like a lemon. The Dame reciprocated with a honeycomb, while Nancy Mitford chipped in with an egg and "an ounce of real farm butter". Thirty years on, staying with the Droghedas, Lees-Milne found himself caught up in a more familiar routine of "effusive thanks, cries of gush as we unpack expensive parcels which we don't always want, much over-eating of too rich foods."

One of the dangers of inviting writers to lunch is that the world may end up learning about the stinginess of the presents on offer and the hor-Barbara Skelton, spent Christmas



looks, a bottle-necked figure with a large bum". Famously greedy, Connolly liked to be known as a gourmet, but although much had been promised from the Flemings' new cooks, the best they could provide was "rancid stuffing for the turkey and bottled chipolatas", and brandy butter made with synthetic cream.

After lunch, presents were handed round. The year before Fleming rors of the cooking. Cyril Connolly had given Barbara a "used pencil, and his pantherine second wife, a used lighter and a dirty motto", but this time he stretched to a pair of had "lost any semblance of good fellow-guest and former lover, Peter The following year, "I made a fair Alcoholic remorse set in after-

Quennell, came up with the same Henry James novel he'd given her 10 years before. On the way home, the Connollys' car run out of petrol, and the embattled couple stamped angrily off in opposite directions.

Equally unflattering accounts of seasonal festivities are provided by Connolly's friend and tormentor, Evelyn Waugh. "We managed to collect a number of trashy and costly toys for the stockings," he wrote memoranda. in 1945, and although the plum pudding was tasteless. "by keeping the Day 1953 with Ian and Ann Fleming black lacy underpants and a children in bed for long periods we in Kent. Their host, Barbara noted. "hideous beige galoshes bag". A managed to have a tolerable day". at the Beach Hotel in Littlehampton. are a bore with your shrub talk all

though the spectacle of a litter of shoddy toys and half-eaten sweets sickened me." Lunch was "cold and poorly cooked", and Waugh spent the remainder of a "ghastly day" comparing the published version of The Diary of a Nobody with that serialised in Punch - an improvement on Harold Nicolson's 1940 Christmas diet of government

"We got tight and I recited Newbolt's poems, firing off a toy pistol as a 'turn' at the local Yuletide Dance

show of geniality throughout the day, wards," John Betjeman confessed in 1931. Booze looms large in literary Christmases, both as antidote and as agent provocateur. In Yugoslavia in 1944. Waugh condescended to drink cocktails "with a group of proletarian officers". Anthony Powell's Christmas Day diary entries read like vintner's lists ("Tristram gave me a bottle of Nuits St Georges '85; Archie, Moulins Grassier Grand Poujeaux (Medoc) '79).

No doubt drinks had been taken when Barbara rounded on "Hubby" chez the Betjemans ("My god, you the time!"), or when Lees-Milne

spotted Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon bickering over drinks after the Christmas service in St George's Chapel, Windsor ("Then I shall have to walk home by myself!").

Few of our modern diarists put in an appearance at church, though Barbara Skelton went along one year with Mrs Lea the charwoman and complained that "the turning of the wafer into Christ's body and the port wine into blood took an flesh offered to idols"), the old interminable time." Staying with Lord David Cecil and his family, Frances Partridge tried instead to and buried it deep in a compost heap. bring my mind to bear on an arti- Few of our modern Christmas-

Dislike of Christmas in general was as familiar to the mid-Victorians as it is today. Edmund Gosse's father abominated Christmas, declaring it to be nothing more than Popish nonsense, and when his son confessed he had been lured into the servants' quarters and offered an illicit slice of Christmas pudding ("Oh! Papa, Papa, I have eaten of gentleman rushed into the kitchen. laid hands on the offending object cle on Wittgenstein", but the Cecils haters quite come up to that.

wouldn't stop talking for an instant.

Heroes and villains of 1998

After a hyperactive year in books, The Literator is seeing stars - and turkeys

HEROES

Stuart Proffitt

When ordered from on high to drop Chris Patten's book on Hong Kong, he resigned from HarperCollins in one of the highest profile departures since Michael Heseltine stalked out of the Cabinet. As Proffitt defended his author, every last vestige of the non-Murdoch media were joined in battle. To them, Patten was a brave defender of free speech standing up to Murdoch's evil empire. Dozens of authors and agents offered soundbites to the effect that they would never again deal with HarperCollins. With one or two exceptions, it was soon business as usual as various individuals claimed to have been "misquoted".

Tim Waterstone

Having sold his chain to W H Smith, the founder bought it back via HMV in a £300m deal: the biggest ever in British book retailing. Despite this summer's British opening of Borders, it remains, for discerning the chain of choice.

Ted Hughes
The Poet Laureate surprised everyone with Birthday Letters, a reflection on his years with Sylvia Plath that looks all the more poignant with his passing. Just as he maintained a dignified silence against those who charged him with driving his estranged wife to her death, so he declined to play the sympathy card by sharing with the public the fact that he had cancer. Birthday Letters and his previous volume Tales from Ovid picked up all the major poetry prizes.



Beryl Bainbridge Yet again the bridesmaid, the

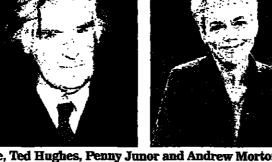
author of Master Georgie bore her fifth failure to win the Booker with dignity and humour, even as everyone agreed that Ian McEwan had won with a novel very far from his best.

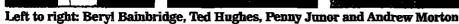
The dog once accused of GBH in St James's Park proved his rehabilitation by "writing" what everyone agreed was a nifty piece of doggerel about The Man, aka Roy Hattersley.

Stephen King

In his first tour for 17 years, the multimillion-selling author worked his butt off at sell-out events. At signings he made time for everyone, chatting, inscribing messages as requested and even phoning one woman's husband - despite the enormous queues. At the year's biggest launch party, for Bag of Bones, he sang and played guitar with Ken Follett's band Damn Right I Got the Blues. King may be one of the world's biggest selling authors, but he may also be the world's most unassuming.







The man who proved that bus drivers can go all the way when his debut The Restraint of Beasts made it on to the Booker and Whitbread shortlists.

Louis de Bernières

Named Author of the Year, the creator of Captain Corell's Mandolin continued to enjoy his long run in the charts while remaining unchanged by success. The Queen's Dragoon Guards dropout spent years odd-jobbing before embarking on a literary career. A word-ofmouth success shunned by all the major prizes, Corelli has doubled its sales in the past 12 months, to 700,000 copies in Britain alone. A film is in train.

Sir Edward Heath For simply – finally – finishing those memoirs.

VILLAINS

Just as Michael Heseltine's resignation was not merely about helicopters, so Proffitt's was not merely about Chris Patten. Impartial critics noted this sky on her memoirs.

was not a censorship issue. Murdoch, in deciding that Patten did not fit his agenda, was doing what all publishers do from time to time. Patten was perfectly free to publish elsewhere, which he did. Staff at HarperCollins bitterly resented being made to appear moral-

ly bankrupt and there was widespread feeling that Proffitt had attempted to use the Patten affair to enlarge his territory, never expecting that he would be forced to resign. Like a thief in the night, the German media conglomerate stole in to buy Random House

from Si Newhouse. Many agents and authors bewailed the fact that, however benign the Bertelsmann management. publishing was becoming ever more homogenised with power in fewer and fewer hands.

Andrew Morton As though he hadn't helped to dish enough dirt already. Morton signed a deal with publishers Michael O'Mara to collaborate with Monica Lewin-



UPPA/SWMNS

Mike O'Mara For brokering the Morton/ Lewinsky deal and then justifying their collaboration by citing a shared love of T S Eliot.

Frederick Forsyth and Lord Lloyd-Webber

Two of the world's most overweening ambitions announced they were joining forces to produce a sequel to Phontom of the Opera. The deal was brokered by Ed Victor, Britain's most egocentric literary agent (and, according to a survey, our third most popular party guest).

In writing Charles: Victim or Villain?, the journalist whose toadying oeuvre includes biographies of Richard Burton and John Major presumably hoped to help with the heir's rehabilitation. Sadly, the move backfired and even Vinnie Jones entered the fray when he and Junor were guests of Libby Purves on Midweek. When a US intervewer said that HRH had no one to confide in, Junor allegedly countered "He's got me!". The first rule of journalism? Protect your sources!

Criminal neglect

IMAGINE A gathering of gifted professionals - the A WEEK IN finest a business can boast, assembled to honour their peers at an annual awards ceremony. Then imagine that the leading guest at such a glitzy bash used his spotlit role to tell the company that he really couldn't be bothered with their work. That he never spent much time enjoying their skills - except when the BBC paid him to study an example of it. Now, if you

were a dedicated toiler in this trade, wouldn't you feel The Supercilious Silk, more than a mite aggrieved? Yet that was just how and the Bashful Michael Mansfield QC addressed last week's Dagger Awards of the Crime Writers Association at the Law Society. The TV-friendly campaigning silk told the massed virtuosi of thrillers

and whodunnits that he

seldom had time to read

them - save when he talked

about John Grisham on the

radio. Puzzlingly, he then

segued into a sort of anti-

Pinochet ramble that left

only pinko cabbie in the

treat - especially if, as I

hear, he may have some

fiction looks as vital and

varied at present as crime

and mystery, in all its forms.

At least two finalists for the

Dagger for fiction - Michael

Dibdin's A Long Finish and Reginald Hill's On Beulah

Height - would have graced

purely literary grounds. In

the event, the top prize went

any Booker shortlist on

1998 CWA/ Macallan Gold

known universe.

the great brief sounding less

like a star advocate than the

Mansfield is missing a

crime-writing ambitions of

his own. No sector of British

to a formidable transatlantic contender: James Lee Burke's Sunset Limited (Orion), the latest in the Louisiana-based series featuring Inspector Dave Robicheaux, lauded by Pete Davies in the Independent as "the most impressive body of crime fiction in America today". No matter. However good

crime writing gets, some supercilious celeb can always look down his nose at the best in the business. This is not just snobbish, but senseless as well. Any halfawake watcher of the publishing scene knows that the big story of the new millennium will involve the collapse of those already frayed distinctions between so-called "genre" and "literary" fictions. The best crime writers stand well in the vanguard of that convergence. Yet still they have to grin and bear the

casual contempt of the smart Establishment. It's enough to drive a noir buff to dream up a retributive plot-line. "Death in the Red Chambers", anyone?

COURTING DISSENT, the

CWA gave its award for non-

(Macmillan): Gitta Sereny's

fierce, forensic quest for the

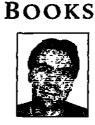
done to little Mary Bell and

what she did to the two boys

fiction to Cries Unheard

links between what was

she killed. Sereny's book



TONKIN

Benefactor: two Christmas mysteries

may come into contention again when the first-ever judging panel for the Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction convenes early next spring. It is funded, Orange-Prize-style, by a nameless bashful bookworm ("a retired British businessman and philanthropist") to the tune of £30,000 for the winner and £2,500 each of the shortlisted authors. With a longlist due in March, a shortlist in May and a winner proclaimed by its first chair - James Naughtie - at the start of June, the Samuel Johnson will fill the yawning gap left last year when fickle NCR abandoned their non-fiction award. Its creation gives a Christmas boost to aspiring travellers, biographers, memoirists, critics and scientists - and to their publishers. Knowing Naughtie's own proclivities, musical biographers might feel most chuffed. As for the Johnson monicker – well, it would be very churlish to dig up Sam's own definition of a patron; "Commonly a wretch who supports with insolence, and is paid with flattery". Perhaps that

explains the anonymity.

Ordering bo Christmas f seasy. You ^emember c

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Still rocking with the old horror show

In these dark days, what could be more fun than a tale from the crypt? Philip Hoare disinters Gothic chic

t the dying-down of the year, as trees become skeletal and berries turn blood-red against viridian ivies, as grey logs wreathe the tallest city blocks, the thoughts of a Northern European aesthete naturally turn to matters Gothic. This festive season, latter-day Goths have a new tome with which to console their dark thoughts. Richard Davenport-Hines's book dissects the cadaver of the Gothic imagination. From the 17th-century eruption of Vesuvius which remade the landscape in a Gothic image and sowed the seeds for the visceral paintings of Salvator Rosa, to The Cure, David Lynch, and the dummies of the Chapman Brothers, Davenport-Hines's book deftly cites painting, literature, film and pop culture to define the sensibility. Morbidly relevant in our fin-de-siècle, Gothic artifice looms large in the imagination as we toy with our own decadence.

Gothic, of course, is all about the transposition of the real into the artificial. For all its Central European aura, it is a very English sensibility. Our country is riddled with its etley Abbey outside Southampton. By the 18th century, mature trees grew out of the roofless nave of this dissolved Cistercian house, inspiring Horace Walpole and Thomas Gray to hymn its sublime charms. Jane Austen came too, along with her impressionable niece Fanny.

Fanny's breathless, bosom-heavechoed that of Catherine Morland, heroine of Austen's Gothic pastiche, Northanger Abbey: "Never was there anything in the known world be compared to that compound of Nelson was greeted by a drive lined everything that is striking, ancient and majestic: we were struck dumb by dwarves into a cathedral-like with admiration, and I wish I could write anything that would come near to the sublimity of it, but that is utterly impossible as nothing I could say would give you a distant idea of its extreme beauty." She was not alone in her admiration. One aficionado of Gothic was so taken with the abbey that he had the entire expects Ludwig II of Bavaria to north transept demolished and rehas an "authentic" folly in the grounds of his country house.

Gothic mania that hit England in the



Gothic: four hundred years of excess, horror, evil and ruin by Richard Davenport-Hines

Fourth Estate, £20, 438pp

wake of Mrs Radcliffe's pulp-fiction shockers. Seekers of the sublime arrived in their droves, hotels were set up nearby, and the whole thing became a theme park, complete with torchlit tours of the ruins to thrill young maidens in thin muslin. With their morbid tastes and antisocial hours, these Goths were an Enlightenment-spawned version of pirit, in such sites as the ruins of 1970s punks, and Netley Abbey their equivalent of a night club.

There was (and is) a degree of vulgarity involved in Gothic. After all, the 18th-century's most flamboyant goth, William Beckford, was a man of trade, employing the gains of commerce to build Fonthill Abbey and its soaring tower - the tallest in the country for all of the few short years ing reaction to the waterside abbey it stood before its gerrybuilt structure collapsed in a heap of rubble. Beckford's Fonthill was filled with more effects than a Lloyd Webber stage show. One Christmas, Lord with flaming torches and admitted space where hidden lamps produced startling lighting effects.

You can still find traces of Beckford's follies at Fonthill in deepest Wiltshire. With its giant lake, and enormous boulders sunken into the bosky grounds, it is an artificial Wagnerian landscape. One almost come punting along in a giant swan.

The Gothic buildings of the 18th century evinced a reactionary, Netley is a perfect example of the atavistic and coded political desire to affirm the feudal past. By the time

the radical campaigner William Cobbett had embarked on his famous Rural Rides, Gothic was decidedly the province of new money. In 1821, Cobbett encountered a certain Mr Montague's estate in north Hampshire: "Of all the ridiculous things I ever saw in my life this place is the most ridiculous", he wrote. "The house looks like a sort of church... with crosses on the tops of different parts of the pile ... in one of the gravel walks, we had to pass under a gothic arch, with a cross on the top of it... this gothic arch, disfigured by the hand of old Father Time, was composed of Scotch fir wood, as rotten as a pear, nailed together in such a way as to make the thing appear, from a distance, like the remnant of a ruin! I wonder how long this sickly, this childish taste is to remain?"

For another two centuries, at least. As a reaction against the rationalism of the Enlightenment, Gothic was a thing undead, constantly revived like the vampire count himself. Ahead of Cobbett was the great 19th-century explosion of Gothic: Pugin's enthusiastic incarnation of Victorian Gothic, an industrialised, decorative style, was echoed more darkly in the works of Bram Stoker, Edgar Allen Poe and Robert Louis Stevenson

As Davenport-Hines points out, Gothic has much to do with the sense of human isolation, the individual against the rest. Where the 18th-century Goths had reacted against rationalism, their heirs reacted against the machine; and the machine of a controlling society. In this aspect Gothic allied with the artifice of late 19th-century Decadence - the dandy's "recreation of self as manufactured object", in Susan Sontag's formulation - and paved the way for its pop-cultural assimilation in the modern era. Nowhere is this more evident

than in America, a country which has spent the 20th century rooted in the 19th but trying to live in the 21st. Having given us Poe, the horror movie, and the great Southern Gothic fiction of Faulkner and Flannery O'Connor, America has now evolved a mall-friendly Gothic of Nightmore on Elm Street remakes and Tim Burton's films (and books), Modern American Gothic is a reaction against fundamentalism (which in turn reacts against it) and the ther-



contagious tales of alien abduction (themselves foretold in Fuseli's nightmare paintings). Davenport-Hines cites Mark Edmundson's book Nightmore on Main Street (Harvard), with its "provocative section on recovered memory syndrome as a gothic melodrama'

Once in this cultural frame, it is tempting to construe almost anything as Gothic: from William Kent's authentically Gothic act of planting a dead tree in Kensington Gardens. to the wilting carpet of flowers placed there 200 years later in honimagination can draw a line between child-abuse cases and The Wicker Man; it can conjure up the true demons of the modern era.

After all, this is an age which reached its nadir with Nazi Gothic to a Wagnerian soundtrack; where Mervyn Peake's neo-romantic Gothic infected with madness and his death-camp drawings from Belsen, mirrored a century which began with the Armageddon of the Great

lennial version of Vesuvius's plumed explosion: the shadow of the Bomb.

Back in Netley, the abbey's medieval Gothic was supplanted by the Victorian Gothic of a military hospital and asylum. A quarter-mile long, it became the new focus for a more terrible Gothic spirit, a place where shell-shocked men were filmed in juddering black and white like a German Expressionist movie.

Tyranny, genocide, mechanised warfare: we who have lived under these shadows must have expected to see Gothic galvanised anew. Gothour of a dead princess. The Gothic ic is a logical response to an apocalyptic era, from Conrad's Heart of Darkness to Joy Division's tortured extremes and the suicide of their singer, Ian Curtis. He incarnated what Michael Bracewell terms "Northern Gothic", with Branwell

> Bronte and the witches of Pendle. Gothic's dark river runs through our culture. From Derek Jarman's gay Gothic - his Catholic-obsessed films and dark cavelike central London flat with its heavy medieval fur

zled face in Silence of the Lambs, the modern appetite for its dark excesses is undiminished. Witness the revival of The Exorcist, the popularity of The X-files, or the shlock-Gothic of Marilyn Manson.

We need these correctives to the

bland Blairite, confessional Clintonite, world of self-improvement. I once had to lecture in Lincoln, Nebraska, the beart of a wide-open prairie where one would expect no hint of perverse Gothicry. Yet the teenage boy whose room I had been given turned out to be an obsessive fan of Martin Degville of Sigue Sigue Sputnik: as cynical an exercise in 1980s pop-Gothic as you could get.

Later that trip, I ended up in the film director John Waters's house in Baltimore, a redbrick pile in the middle of American suburbia. I was greeted by Waters in his hall, standing next to an electric chair. My fellow diners resembled a glamorous Addams Family, and the guest bedrooms were decorated with paintings of Disney characters done by

stays more than one night," said Wa-

In the attic, alongside a collection

ters, wrinkling his moustache.

of rusty Victorian surgical equipment, was a threadbare rocking horse. I'd swear it had only just stopped rocking as we came into the room. But perhaps I was doomed to a Gothic imagination since receiving my education in a Catholic college occupying Horace Walpole's Strawberry Hill. My room was lapped by the lawns that surrounded Walpole's turrets and towers, and his weird Chapel in the Woods.

In the late 1990s, the Gothic imagination persists in British art. The Sensation show was full of it: from Hirst's pickles to Ron Muerck's "Dead Dad". Cathy de Monchaux's sculptures ooze feminine Gothic horror in their reference to the vagina dentata. BritArt seems as obsessed with sex and death as the decadent art of two previous fins-desiècie. As we enter the next millennium, Gothic's well-preserved corpse has been snatched again.

Time for our poets to make the best of a bard job

New year, new Poet Laureate? Bill Greenwell imagines how some of the main contenders might want to apply for the post

Carol Ann Duffy

"Queen Time"

.

Butt of wine. Guineas. The sound of sabres rattling like teeth in the cut glass by the bed. You love the clunk of the funeral bell, flat. as you answer the coded call. Ode. Dirge. Epithalamium. Your voice cracks like plaster when the tall orders arrive on the same day while the rest watch telly. Princess Anne. or is it BT's answering service? The Abbey?

Visit, Assassin, Bishop. You have the guts to garter the knights, to slice open their visors as if they were hiding pearls. The last rites. The Charity Shield, the sweet FA. You dash a brocade of words to a fax, and you leave the new Pursuivant gasping. Your country looks fast-forward to a past where the

present timerhymes. I need the work, boss. I want the sack.

Andrew Motion

"In Quiet Confidence"

The telephone rings. It is the palace - no, the prime minister, his voice bright as an old spark. And I must confess I have been half-expecting him to write,

what line is being quietly plied. I think he is inviting me to choose to step in those open brogues. On parade. So I answer, half-scrambling my words.

and I know, and he knows, and Ladbroke's knows

in a jittery sequence, a series of whispers which sound like time-clocks or goat's beard in a light breeze just before vespers -

So I tell him, which I will, you know, what my decision is. Yes, that's correct. I know exactly what I have to do,



and he explains what titles to expect.

I've been the odds-on-favourite, and will not blench at it, nor take offence, when offered, though I may say Shit Is that all right? I'll have to do it once.

Benjamin Zephaniah

"Me laureate poem"

Dis a Laureate rantin for de royal occasion Mean de people no feget bout de Norman invasion Bout de Queen an her mudder an her Philip mista An nu feget de vista of her Caribbean sista An de way de doubled-barrel kill de old King Harold Wid de old King Johnnies in dere robes apparelled Yu can't feget de Jameses and de Williams and de Georges

Cause Inglan mek dere history an it sound so Yu don't need fe believe it long as hands be

But now dey need to listen to me riddim and me Need fe rock wid me when I'm poet by

appointment De bee what mek new jelly for de Queen's own **Wendy Cope**

"Laureates And Their Boring Manifestoes"

I don't need nu sceptre nu de orb an all de

You tink bout de truth an de whole disgrace an

When dey mek me de Reggae Roots Royal Dub

Me chant bout Brixton an Handsworth an de

Tve offered to be the Laureate -I think it would be a breeze. There are lots of things to be sorry at, But I'm fond of royalties.

Bill Greenwell writes a weekly topical poem for the "New Statesman". His book "Tony Blair Reminds Me of a Budgie" is available, price £5 from Entire Photo Here Press, PO Box 317, Exeter EX4 3SR

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\11FE W B Yeats: a life, vol I, the apprentice mage by R F Foster. Oxford, £15

from Roy Foster's monumental,

of W B Yeats is very much of our

times: drug-taking (he preferred

hashish to mescal), drawn to

lover shopping for a bed in the

Tottenham Court Road, Though

poets also played a key role in

unequivocal support for Oscar

speak for itself.

Wilde. Foster is content to let the

poetry, which he quotes generously,

forging modern Ireland. A major

surprisingly amusing reassessment

mysticism, we even see him with his

intimately involved with the decadent

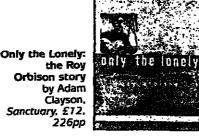
strength of the book is its delineation

of Yeats's personal relations - from his tangled love life to his admirably

movement, this most ambitious of

THE PROTEAN figure who emerges

W.B. YEATS



THE LIFE of the Big O was notoriously peppered with tragedy. And similar misfortune seems to be pursuing him beyond the grave, judging by this garbled biography. It is frequently impossible to fathom

out what is going on, from early struggles ("This breath of stale air commenced a wrestling with vocational stimulus...") through success in England ("He was the sombre side of Freddy Garrity's coin") to the Travelling Wilbury's ("He was... a well-spring of kismet supercool"). From a self-penned biographical note, we learn that the author is also a singer, whose new album is his "artistic apotheosis". Good job too, if this is anything to go by.

DELUSIONS

DISCOVERIES

Benita Parry



Murder a Cigarette by Ralph Harris and Judith Hatton Duckworth. £7.95, 147pp

WEIRDLY UNFUNNY, this trawl of hors d'oeuvres would be an ideal present for a musical nephew - as long as you never see him. Though it is interesting to learn the accuracy of the Mozart character in the film Amadeus - apparently the great man was "remarkably small (four foot, eleven inches), very thin and pale, with a profusion of fine, fair hair" - your appreciation of this book will depend on how amusing you find Sir Thomas Beecham's view of the trombone as an "antique drainage system" or the anonymous contribution "Why do violinists stand outside people's houses? Because they can't find the key and don't know when to come in." Ha!

City Girl.

by Patricia

Bantam, £5.99,

Scanlan

477pp

DEVLIN, CAROLINE and Maggie, the

follow a traditional route to the altar:

Dublin for New York, and return home

to marry loveable louts. Not nearly as

entertaining a read as Marian Keyes -

her younger and hipper competitor in

although she does have a nice line in

gruesome car accidents. The Grafton

Street Benetton is as glamorous as it

gets, and suffice to say that all three

girls are left to discover their

white wine.

innermost selves in aerobics and

the field - Scanlan's book fails to

deliver either on sex or shopping,

three smiling-eyed heroines of

Patricia Scanlan's Irish bestseller,

fresh out of the convent, they get

pregnant, lie in hot baths, leave

Ligarette

ENTERING THE fag end of the debate. Lord Deedes (author of the book's preface), Lord Harris (Chairman of Forest) and Judith Hatton (a wartime Ministry of Information censor). muster up the usual libertarian answer to the anti-smoking "SS Brigade". Dismissing medical statistics on one page, and then marshalling them in their defence the next - though they do acknowledge that heavy smokers account for 90 per cent of deaths from lung cancer - the book's thesis boils down to that most uncontroversial of statistics: that most of us will be dead by 80 whether we smoke or not. More provocatively, the authors deny the dangers of "passive smoking" and the effect of smoke on newborn babies.

The Oxford Companion to the Mind edited by Richard L Gregory, Oxford,

£15.99, 856pp DESPITE ITS encyclopaedia-like format, the quirkiness of the entries

prevent this tome being too much like a text-book. The section on "Humour" quotes Wyndham Lewis that laughter is "the mind sneezing". The contributor of the idiosyncratic entry on R D Laing ("whence comes decisions about who can, must, cannot, must not do what to whom...") turns out to be one RDL. Though the book is weighted towards the editor's specialist field of visual perception (his essay on "illusion" even fills the fly-leaf), its scope ranges from "Laughing Gas" to "Paranormal" from "Turing, Alan" to "Out of Body Experience". For the price, this is a bargain.

SPOKEN WORD FOR XMAS

BROWSING IN a bookshop is one of the best ways of solving tricky present problems, and now that most good bookshops have substantial offerings on audio Santa's life is even easier. Starting with the smalls, Babe in the City (HarperCollins, £6.99), Dick King-Smith's sequel to the hugely enjoyable Babe will be a treat - and prepare them for the film. For slightly older children (and their parents), Martin Chines reading Jeremy Strong's The Hundred Mile an Hour Dog (Penguin, £7.99) will go down well. A Christmas must is Alan Bennett's placidly commonsensical reading of J M Barrie's Peter Pan (BBC, £8.99) his calm makes the matter-of-fact magic of the tale the more absurdly real. And look out for Ivory Shell's series of highly collectable classic children's stories from countries all round the world, available either in ordinary pictorial niastic cases or

very attractive gold-lettered gift boxes, both at £6.99. I especially enjoyed the Egyptian and Aboriginal Tales

Today's smart modern intimate prose works very well read aloud. Twenty- and thirtysomething blokes and blokish

wenches should enjoy Nick Hornby's About A Boy (HarperCollins, £8.99), read by Alan Cumming or his unabridged High Fidelity (Isis, £16.99) read by Nigel Carrington. The more romantically inclined could do no better than Louis de Bernières's unabridged Captain Corelli's Mandolin (Chivers, £18.95, read by Michael Maloney) or Ian McEwan's Enduring Love (Chivers, £15.95), read by David Threlfall. Or, for those perfect friendships, Casabianca and The Maitese Falcon (Mr Punch, £8.99), a rerelease of the original 1943 wireless recording by Bogart and Bergman. Timothy West has just completed

his superb unabridged readings of Anthony Trollope's six political novels with The Prime Minister (Cover to Cover, £64.99) and The Duke's Children (Cover to Cover, £53,99); either of them would make welcome listening for conservative relations with a long haul home. Or else ensure easy gift decisions for the next five years by buying them Can You Forgive Her (£64.99), the first in the series. Another literary marathon that is

nearing completion is Marcel Proust's Remembrance of Things Past, abridged and read with astonishing versatility by Neville Jason for Naxos, and available on CD as well as tape. The eighth in a series of 12, the second part of Sodom and Gomorrah, is due out in the new year, start now with the first, Swann's Way (£9.99). Poetry pleases everybody with soul: this year's first choice has to be Poems to Remember (Faber/Penguin, £8.99), Ted Hughes's anthology, prefaced by his own tips on how to memorise poetry. read by the man himself, and with an accompanying book of the poems. Also outstanding is Brendan Kennelly's long poem, read by himself, The Man Made of Rain (Bloodaxe Books, £8.99).

The end of the year always seems to call for retrospectives. An

innovative new approach is The Chronicles (Mr Punch Audio. baxed set of eight cassettes, c12 hrs, £29.99, also available in four parts, each of three months of the year). This is an ambitious assembling of diaries, journals and letters

written over the last 500 years. It ranges from Pepys and Evelyn to Captain Scott and Barbara Castle, with a galaxy of stars reading the extracts. They are arranged by time of the year rather than date, and the juxtapositions are often startling and thought-provoking. Finally, simple but special: The Gospel According to St Luke (Penguin, £8.99) in the King James version, read by David Suchet. And my own audiobook of the year, Cover to Cover's elegantly boxed, unabridged version of Rudyard Kipling's Kim (£26.99), read by Sam Dastor, who gives a masterly

and exotic cast. If you have difficulty finding these titles near you, a sure way of getting them (and many more) sent to you is to contact London's Wigmore Street Talking Bookshop's mail order service on 0171 491 4117. They also do special offers on unabridged books, for example John Buchan's Mr Standfast, read by Edmund Dehn, reduced from £48.99 to £18.99.

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ERGUS LINEHAN

The Safest Place by Fergus Linenhan. Pan. £6.99,

SET IN wartime Ireland, Fergus Linenhan's enjoyable second novel tells the story of a young man on the run. Sent to Dublin to assassinate a Special Branch detective, young Republican Eddie O'Sullivan spends his days in a boarding house and his nights falling in love with Kay, a show singer at Dublin's Coliseum. But. after the deadly deed is done, Eddie is forced to flee into the cold winter countryside. Populating his novel with Judith Hearne-like spinsters, penniless variety artistes and war-mad schoolboys, film critic Linenhan (the author of Under the Durian Tree) knows the virtues of unfussy prose and old-fashioned storytelling.

Bill Bryson is the travel list this week:

combined sales total of 46,449. That's

not nearly as many as Delia, mind you;

though the TV screening of Notes From

send his sales up into the stratosphere.

Bryson, Attenborough and Smith - on

a Big Country early next year should

The stranglehold of the big three -

taking the top five places with a

MARRED BY academic gobbledegook ("transcoding is a disjunctive

Delusions and

by Benita Parry.

Discoveries

£13, 274pp

Verso.

process"), this critical work tackles the intriguing theme of Anglo-Indian fiction inspired by the Raj during its apogee from 1880-1930. Parry savages imaginative flesh-creepers by "irreproachable matrons" ("I myself have seen a handsome youth sacrificed to Kali, bled at the wrists and ankles and disembowelled." frothed Maude Diver). Parry is equally scathing about three more talented writers: "preposterous", "superficial", "irascible". Though Kipling is the best of a bad lot, she insists he viewed India "through ethnocentric lenses". Well, there's a

BEST-SELLERS

the top of the non-fiction chart probably won't loosen until the last book token has been redeemed in the New Year. That said, is there anybody left in the country whose Christmas wish to improve their own culinary skills, or more likely, those of their nearest and dearest, still lacking That Cookbook? And for those sick of being told that

they can't even boil an egg, the resurgence in the sales of Men are From Mors... suggests a pro-active approach to bucking the post-Christmas high in the number of people filing for divorce.

Compiled by Bookwaich from sales over seven days ending 13 December Bookwatch Ltd, 1998

ORIGINAL FICTION

TITLE	AUTHOR/PUBLISHER	WEEKLY SALES	PRICE	
Carpe Jugulum	Terry Pratchett (Doubleday)	10,609	£16.99	
Tara Road	Maeve Binchy (Orion)	8,844	£16.99	
Archangel	Robert Harris (Hutchinson)	6,926	£16.99	
City Girl	Patricia Scanlan (Bantam)	6,781	£5.99	
Point of Origin	Patricia D Cornwell (Little, Brow	n)6,618	£16.99	
Field of Thirteen	Dick Francis (M Joseph)	6,515	£16.99	
Rainbow Six	Tom Clancy (M Joseph)	6,510	£16.99	
Powerplays	Tom Clancy (Penguin)	4,599	£5.99	
Charlotte Gray	Sebastian Faulks (Hutchinson)	4,556	£16.99	
Bag of Bones	Stephen King (Hodder)	3,802	£16.99	

ORIGINAL NON-FICTION

TITLE	AUTHOR/PUBLISHER	WEERLY SALES	PRICE
Delia's How to Cook	Delia Smith (BBC)	64,247	£16.99
The Life of Birds	David Attenborough (BBC)	20,325	£18.99
Note From a Big Country	Bill Bryson (Doubleday)	18,226	£16.9
	Richard Curtis et al (M Joseph)	11,693	£15.9
The Little Book of Calm	Paul Wilson (Penguin)	10,559	£1.99
Little Book of Feng Shui	Lillian Too (Element)	9,266	£1.99
Addicted	Tony Adams/I Ridley (CollinsWillow)	8,232	£16.99
The Private Eye Annual	ed Ian Hislop (Private Eye)	8,199	£7.99
	John Gray (Thorsons)	6,434	£8.99
Losing My Virginity	Richard Branson (Virgin)	6,432	£20

TRAVEL

TITLE	AUTHOR/PUBLISHER	WEEKLY SALES	PRICE
Notes From a Big Country	Bill Bryson (Doubleday)	18,226	£16.99
A Walk in the Woods	Bill Bryson (Black Swan)	12,378	£6.99
Notes From a Small Island	Bill Bryson (Black Swan)	9,859	£6.99
Neither Here Nor There	Bill Bryson (Black Swan)	2,946	£6.99
The Lost Continent	Bill Bryson (Abacus)	2,040	£6.99
Strange Places	John Simpson (Macmillan)	1,707	£20
Following the Equator		_	
with Peter Ustinov	M Waldman (Simon&Schuster)	1,110	£20
Round Ireland	Tony Hawks (Ebury)	809	£9.99
The Plant Hunters	Toby Musgrave (Ward Lock)	610	£20
The Age of Kali	William Dairymple (HarperCollins)	573	£19,99

Celebrity bust-ups, crime, sleaze... hot news in 1858

Dickens's mag traded on misery as well as merriment. By **D J Taylor**

I REGRET very much that I can't contribute to your projected Magazine", Thackeray wrote to George Cruikshank in 1853, declining an invitation to appear in the short-lived (two issues) George Cruikshank's Magazine, "but I am obliged to refuse all such applications, and have perhaps the project of launching some day a ship of my own, of wh. I shall be owner and Captain." In the forward march of early-Victorian periodical journalism, the novelist and magazine proprietor were natural allies. Thackeray realised his ambition seven years later with the Cornhill, closely followed by Trollope's tenure at the St Paul's, but the tradition went back a quarter of a century to Ainsworth's Magazine and the 25-year-old Charles Dickens's appointment as edi-

tor of Bentley's Miscellany. Inevitably, given his complete domination of the early-Victorian literary world, it was Dickens who proved the most successful - and the most innovative - of this tribe of novelist-editors, Household Words, founded in 1850 and selling for twopence to a newly literate and print-hungry readership, was one of the great triumphs of mid-century journalism. With a peak circulation of 40,000 copies a week, it made a healthy £2,000 a year in profits, divided between Dickens and the magazine's co-proprietors Bradbury & Evans.

At the same time, it played a crucial part in cementing the alliance between the novelist and a horde of middle-class readers. "Conducted by Charles Dickens" (the masthead legend) meant exactly that Dickens calculated that he read 900 unsolicited manuscripts in the editorial chair, and a bibliographical sub-industry has grown up around the countless pieces on which he collaborated or otherwise improved to produce the true "Dickensy"



The Dent Uniform Edition of Dickens' Journalism, vol. III: "Gone Astray" and other papers from Household Words Michael Slater(editor) Dent, £30, 542pp

Gone Astray, many readers believed that Dickens wrote most of the magazine himself. The third volume of this epic

edition of Dickens's journalism brings together nearly all the pieces that he wrote for Household Words in the eightand-a-half years of the magazine's existence. As ever (even the briefest glance at a biography of Dickens has this effect) one notes both the indefatigability - these, after all, were the years of Bleak House, Hard Times, Little Dorrit and much else - and the range of interests: politics (outrage at the conduct of the Crimean War); social reportage ("Betting-Shops", "A Nightly Scene in London"); pet projects such as the "Home for Homeless Women" established under the auspices of his friend Angela Burdett-Coutts (a pretty grim place, judging from the regulations); momentary bugbears (a sparkling causerie on "The Best Authority" notes that "at

a dinner of 18 persons I have known 17 sit next to him"). It would be surprising if much of this material didn't fall into the category of what Kingsley Amis used to call "chips from the novelist's workbench", yet the effect is rarely uniform and the movement is flavour. As Michael Slater in both directions. "Unsettled points out in his introduction to Neighbourhood" invokes the

ten several years before, to ex- etors. Legal action followed, amine the imprint of the after which Dickens bought railways on the area around King's Cross. The strictures on the Crimean War anticipate the attacks on governmental bungling and bureaucracy of Little Dorrit, while the warm, reminiscent vein of "Our School" is directly connected to the autobiographical sections of David Copperfield.

Leaving aside straightforward autobiography, Dickens's personal life seeps into these 65 essays like dye. Much of this is routine: even the greatest writers are conscious that one of the best ways to fill space is to write about yourself. "Our Watering Place" describes the Dickens family's French hideaway near Boulogne, while "Out of the Season" is a marveilously atmospheric account of three days spent at Dover in spring 1856 trying (and failing) to get on with Little Dorrit.

By the late 1850s, as the clouds gathered above his private life and he began the affair with Ellen Ternan that led to the break-up of his marriage, the roots of this urge to advertise himself seem much more complex. "The Lazy Tour of Two Idle Apprentices", a carefully disguised rehash of the trip that he took with Wilkie Collins to Cumbria in 1857 (and which included a meeting with Ellen) is full of gestures to some sort of intense but unexplained personal emotion.

It is a kind of code which Dickens knew that none of his readers would be able to decipher, but nonetheless satisfied his own faintly masochistic пееd for disclosure.

Both marriage and magazine ended within a year of each other. Dickens had intended that "Personal" - the extraordinary public proclamation of "domestic troubles" should appear simultaneously in Punch, also owned by Bradbury & Evans, but the editor Mark Lemon demurred and

spirit of Dombey and Son, writ- was backed up by his proprithe title himself, closed it down, and re-opened for business as All The Year Round.

Without labouring the life/art

connection, the tone of many

later sections of Gone Astroy seems intimately connected to this mounting crisis. A chronic relentlessness, a deep unease, characterised the smallest thing that he did: stranded in Dover, for instance, and unable to write, his solution was to take himself for a 20-mile walk. It spills over into his writing, which seems almost a form of nervous release - particularly when he gets onto one of his fixations, such as

prison clergymen who claimed

to detect repentance in convicted murderers. The demands of weekly journalism were another aspect of the terrific, self-imposed pressure with which Dickens invested his life, but they were also a kind of safety valve; a letting-off of steam which would otherwise have been expended elsewhere, at God knows what

personal cost Endlessly revealing of early Victorian society choc-full of the moral outrage that one expects of the man and his age, Gone Astroy also brings off a less predictable trick. It leaves the reader with the queer feeling that, along with the inept bureaucrats and the public scandals, Dickens is busy exposing the no less fascinating spectacle of himself.

D J Taylor's biography of Thackeray will be published by Chatto & Windus in 1999

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END REVIEW

COUNTRY & GARDEN

The provocative art of village life

illage and parish appraisals are all the rage at the moment. Encouraged by the Countryside Commission, many small communities are putting together design statements that (people hope) will have a beneficial influence on future development and help places to retain their character.

The Cotswold village of Bisley. near Stroud, is even now polishing up such a statement. But while the official document was being prepared, Donald Workman - one of the sparkiest inhabitants, and a great reviver of rural tradition - had another idea: that people should be invited to create individual pictures depicting anything their village meant to them: memories of the past, present anxieties, hopes.

He therefore designed an ingeniously cut and perforated sheet of cardboard, which was produced

COUNTRY **MATTERS**

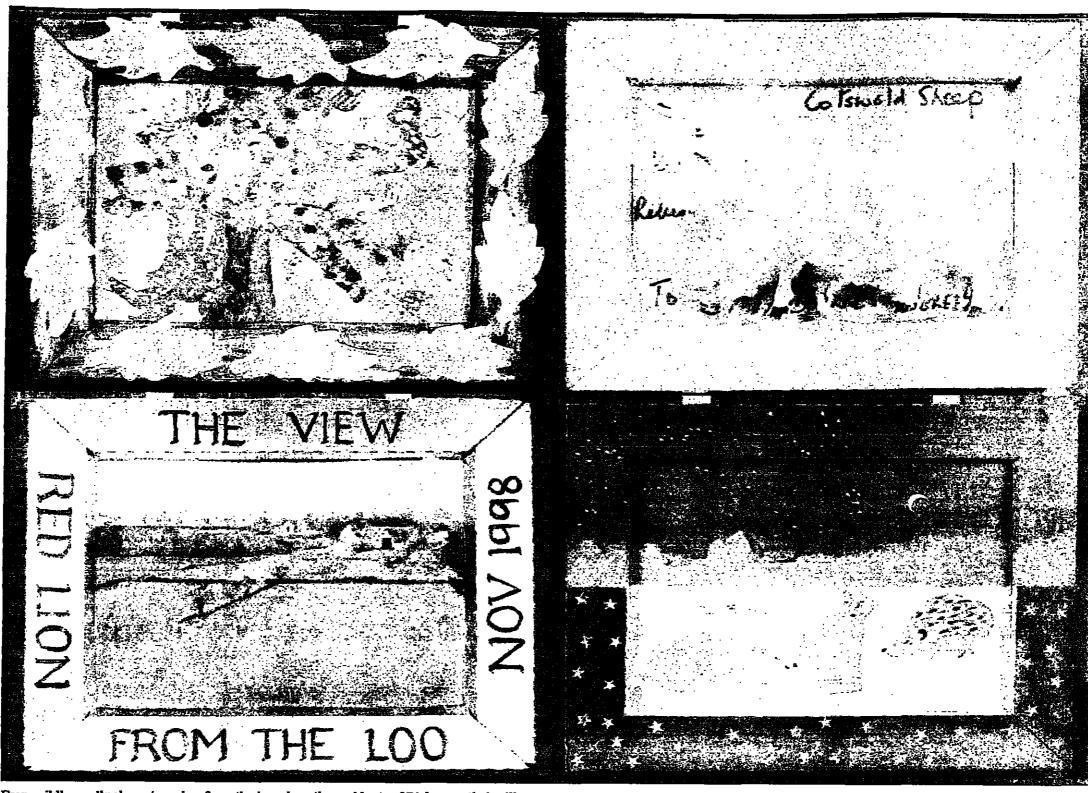


DUFF HART-DAVIS

flat but could easily be folded to form a frame, with a broad, sloping border enclosing a picture space 16 inches by 12. At the start of November, 600 of these were distributed in Bisley and its neighbouring wards Oakridge and Eastcombe, together with a sheet of paper outlining the idea. "The frame is for your view of the village," this said. Together, the portraits would show "what every villager feels about where they live and their sense of belonging". On the back of the sheet were listed possible subjects: weddings, the church, growing food, field names and so on. The initial reaction was mixed. A

school caretaker immediately said she would gather up a day's harvest of crisp packets and stick them in her frame, thus illustrating her job to perfection. Ron Fletcher, an oldtimer well known around local hostelries, proposed to get a largescale map and stick marker pins in Aut spots where he'd come off his bike on the way bome. Many people ald and his wife Sue were afraid they might not elicit a worthwhile response. They need not have worried. A week ago more than 200 portraits went on show in the Thomas Keble school at Eastcombe.

exhibits: frames were painted gold, silver, red and blue, and every kind of material had been used - wool, have come," she says, "but the es, flowers, grass, cloth, photo-graphs. Among grown-ups, Felicity Waggett, Brown Owl for the Eastcombe Brownies, had knitted a



From wildly woolly sheep to a view from the loo - how the residents of Bisley see their village

representation of the view from her strongly, not least the dire winter of front door, which included a cat, a sheep, fields, the vegetable garden and the churchyard. Yet on the opening night the star of the show was Daisy Toll, aged 91, who had contributed a fine portrait in partnership budding saxophonist.

When asked whether she had been in Bisley all her life, Daisy replied crisply: "No, only 50 years." Originally from Northamptonshire, she had lived in the New Forest for Children had made many of the a time before moving to the Cotswolds. Inevitably, in half a century, the place has changed. "New people great thing is, they've taken to the village. The old spirit has survived.

and it's still a welcoming place." Historical events featured

1947, when villagers had to cut their way through 8ft snowdrifts and were without running water for weeks. Many well-remembered characters lived again, among them the old fellow with a cottage behind

unique method of building up his fire:

once it was going, he stacked it with

to hell with the fire brigade.

Donald Workman's own portrait commemorated two craftsmenartists who, during the Thirties, plied the same trade but in strongly contrasting backgrounds. Walter Wilkinson, an anarchist poet and vegetarian, toured the country on

People were invited to create pictures depicting anything that their

village meant to them: memories of the past, present anxieties, hopes

the post office. So poor that he foot, pushing a handcart and giving practitioner arrived with his chair

basing his little plays on Glouces-

tershire folklore and celebrating

performed in fine country houses

and in London, and was a friend of a monitor, "who with an important the poet John Drinkwater.

One keenly felt personal memory was of "dentist day" at Oakridge School, also in the Thirties, when a classroom was turned into a makeshift surgery and the dreaded

and equipment. Pupils were evacu-

ated for the duration to the parish

room, along a path smelling of wet

leaf mould and rotten leaves, and

concentration became impossible as

they waited for the summons from

demeanour would call the name of the next victim and escort the trembling mite... to make sure that escape was not on the cards". There was an evocative glimpse

of Slad (Laurie Lee's village, nearby) wrapped in velvety blackness", and many a poem raised arcadian echoes: "Of Sudgrove sleeping in the sun/ Of bluebells after rain./ The waving corn at Miserden/ For harvest once again".

Yet there was also a vigorous contemporary protest, given substance by a bunch of leeks, from a vegetable gardener whose allotment is about to be taken for new houses; and at the steps of the stage like tomb-

stones, stood several rows of frames blank except for terse messages of rejection from people who had declined to take part. These, printed up by Donald in a deliberate attempt to provoke, told their own story: "This is a private house"... "They're before the era of street lights, when ruining the village"... "Bugger "on moonless nights one was off"... "You're wasting our time: we could be playing bingo".

The only sad fact about the show was its ephemeral nature: after two days the portraits were taken down and returned to their makers. However, the project was voted a phenomenal success, for it had brought neighbouring communities together in a way that nobody had anticipated - and it also released ideas and emotions which the one end of the hall, ranged across artists themselves are normally

More mistletoe please, we're British

couldn't afford a saw, he had a shows with a dozen glove puppets.

long branches pushed high up the the local landscape. William Sim-

chimney, let gravity do the rest - and monds was also a purpeteer, but he

The parasite from our pagan past could be set for a thriving future if global warming sets in. But what really interests us is the folklore steeped in sex and fertility. By Daniel Butler

EVERY WEEK in the run-up to Christmas, the car park of the Tenbury Wells auctioneers is swathed in green. Here the annual mistletoe sales take place, setting the price of this Christmas decoration. In recent years costs have risen sharply, thanks to scare stories about a sharp decline.

This is unduly alarmist, according to Harry Green, of the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust: "It's true that as old apple orchards are grubbed up we lose a lot of established plants," he says. "But it's very veratile and perfectly capable of living on other species."

In fact, some people think the plant is expanding in range. It is a warmth-loving plant and Britain is largely confined to southern England). A succession of recent mild winters appears to have helped it warming makes a significant impact on our climate, it could be set to increase its range.

As a parasite dependent on birds, changing weather patterns benefit it in other ways. Until recently blackcaps were mainly summer migrants, but over the past few years increasing numbers of Continental birds have moved west rather than following other warblers to Africa for

While the plant is traditionally associated with the mistle thrush which derives its name from the however it is rarely found on the tree nt and frequently jealously with which it is so frequently asso-

guards the juicy berries from others), the blackcap seems even more dependent on it. But whichever species consumes the fruit, the next stage of the life cycle is the same. Buried deep in the juicy white flesh (which is poisonous to humans) are little black seeds. These move with the birds, either stuck to a beak which is then fastidiously wiped on a perch, or internally in its gut.

In either case, blackcaps seem increasingly important vectors. Much smaller than a mistle thrush, they are adept at stealing under the beaks of the sentinels and are also more likely to leave the sticky seeds in tighter, more sheltered, crevices.

As the seed germinates it sends out a short, white, root-like structure at the limit of its range (where it is known as a haustoria, which penetrates the bark of its new host (poplars, limes, hawthorns and field maples as well as apples). From here broaden its distribution and, if global it works its way into the capillary network to extract water and essential nutrients. As it grows in strength, the haustoria sends out shoots which fork into the familiar ball of fleshy green stems and leaves. Eventually, small green male flowers appear to produce pollen, which is wind-blown on to the female flowers. These

then swell to become berries. Perhaps surprisingly, given the considerable size of the parasite and the quantities which can grow on just one tree, mistletoe seems to do little damage to its host. Ironically,



Garden Picture Library As well as boosting fertility, mistletoe is believed to scare off goblins

ciated. Oak-based mistletoe is very Although the druids undoubtedly of information, and it is certainly dif-

unusual – which perhaps accounts for its veneration by the ancient druids who apparently saw this most sacred deciduous tree as a sign of divine favour.

It is here that one begins treating the myths with some scepticism. legends where there was a dearth

valued both plants, it is difficult to ficult to trace many of the "druidiseparate historical reality from invented tradition. During the 18th evergreen parasite growing on their century there was a huge upsurge of interest in our pagan past. Many of the more enthusiastic romantics were not averse to creating suitable

cal" stories beyond about 1750. That said, however, mistletoe undoubtedly has a long association with man, and figures strongly in folklore.

Along with red holly and black ivy berries, the white fruit has ancient links to the festive season and has

many local names (Churchman's Greeting in Somerset, Masslin in Suffolk). Many areas also have superstitions based around the plant. For example, it was widely believed to ward off witches and goblins, prompting many rural homes to have a bunch hanging permanently in the house. In Herefordshire, for instance, these were cut on New Year's Eve and bung up as the clock struck midnight while the previous year's bunch was taken down and ceremonially burnt.

Of course, traditionally it has links with fertility. These are probably pagan in origin and may well stem from the fact that, as an evergreen in deciduous trees, it appears alive when everything else is dead. Alternatively, it may be that the pairs of white berries suspended between two suggestively splayed leaves was the origin of its associations with reproduction. In either event, it was commonly used as an aphrodisiac and as an ingredient in fertility potions. Today such beliefs live on in the kissing tradition.

As an increasingly expensive ingredient of the winter's festivities. it may be worth trying to cultivate your own supply. When discarding this year's bunch, try smearing the berries into the bark of garden trees and shrubs. True, the chances of success are low, but with luck you will foster a fascinating plant, create a valuable food supply for local birds - and save yourself a small fortune over the coming years.

NATURE **NOTES**

AS DUSK comes down early these dark winter afternoons, little owls pipe up in the ash trees along the hedgerows. Unlike tawny owls. which hoot. these diminutive fellows give high-pitched, plaintive, whistling calls - kiew. kiew. Their other characteristic is their looping flight, like that of a woodpecker or jay: each time they glide, they sink down, before a short flurry of wing-beats takes them up again: an economical mode for a bird.

Little owls have an amusing appearance. Only about eight inches from head to tail, they sit upright on branches like small, rectangular blocks of wood. and, if they become alarmed, bow down and straighten up, bobbing in quick succession. Because their facial discs are flattened above the eyes. they look as though they are permanently frowning.

They are sometimes known as French owls, having been imported from the Continent during the 19th century. But their Latin name - Athene noctua (Athene of the night) – is misleading, since they are more active by day than many other owls; they often hunt in the twilight, living off insects, mice, rats and small birds. Next month they will start taking up mating territories and preparing to nest in hollow trees.

DUFF HART-DAVIS

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A bit of chicken-wire, a length of ribbon and a skilful way with apples can transform your decorations. By Anna Pavord



In a grown-up Santa's grotto in Mayfair, Paul Thomas adds the finishing touches to one of his Christmas creations

Deck the halls with amaryllis

this Christmas. The children, whose eyes, after any absence, flick over the house like federal agents, checking Christmas tree. And that the new ribbon is decorating some circular swags that they have never seen before. Oh shock! Oh horror! Will they

It all started with some circular plastic rings filled with Oasis that a friend saved from a wedding and passed on to me. It's sad to have such a reputation as a junk junkie, but there we are. It's too late to fight it now. These rings are about 18in across, with the Oasis packed into a 2-in-thick band round the outside. They were originally used flat, as table centres. In their new life they will be hung, wreath-like, against the

walls of the dining-room. The only wreath we generally have at Christmas is the one that hangs on the back door - sprigs of holly jammed into a round, crumpled sausage of chicken wire. The Oasis rings give a firmer, flat-backed base to build on and I've used ivy rather disguisers in the first place.

have just bought some new than holly for the greenery. You ribbon, which entails a masneed both at Christmas, but ivy is so much more forgiving to work with than holly. It is at its best now, with the fine, triangular leaves topped with dark bunches of berries.

Once all the foliage is firmly that everything is in place, will not jammed in place, decoration can be miss this daring innovation. They a matter of whatever you have to will notice that the old ribbon has hand. I like proper glass baubles, bemoved on to trim the bucket of the cause the surface reflects the light more crisply and brightly than plastic ones can ever do. The wreaths look better with clusters of small baubles than they do with big ones. But you could use fir cones, soraved silver (left plain they disappear into the background), sprays of hips from roses such as 'Kiftsgate' allium or leek heads sprayed and frosted, or gilded and burnished walnuts. There are not many occasions when I could in all seriousness burnish a walnut, but Christmas

does funny things to us all. The ribbon was to give the finishing touch to the wreaths which are to hang in the hall. When I was buying it, I meant to tie it in a bow at the top and let the ends hang down in two (I hoped) elegant fishtails, high enough for the cat not to swing on, low enough to cover some dodgy bits of wall, which is what had given me the idea of doing the wreath-

By the time I got home, I thought way up from the mouth of the vase top. Not being selfish about his secome in. You push one horizontally instead that I would try binding the to touch the bunches of dried flow-crets, he shows, step by step, how across the base of each apple so that wreath. It didn't work. I needed had got. Even in my Christmasbefuddled state, it wasn't worth a 300-

mile round trip to VV Rouleaux.

ribbon loosely round and round the ers hanging upside down from the you can make these creations at ceiling. Brilliant amaryllis were wire-edged ribbon, not the soft stuff ringed round the rim of the vase, a stub wire in your life, this book is with sprigs of blue larkspur pushed into the gaps. Ethereal see-through baubles hung from the willow, like Life's not like that if you are a pro- vast soap bubbles caught in its fessional florist. Paul Thomas has a branches. "That's the whole point," flower shop like a grown-up Santa's said Paul. "Unilever. Soap. Bubbles.

home. And if you've never wielded a real revelation.

If I wanted to pile an urn high with apples (and I do, I do), I would simply heap them up until they began to fall down. The disadvantage of this

Before you get to the top, tip a well approach is that you can't build a watered spider plant out of its pot, grotto in Mayfair. It's tiny, with a They own that famous painting. very high pile. And the pile is very wrap the rootball in black plastic and cut away enough of the chicken-wire

at the top of the dome to ram the wrapped rootball firmly into place as a topknot. Then finish fixing the apples and push bits of moss into any gaps between them. I'm planning to use elementines instead. The colour is warmer and the fruit makes the urn more Christmassy.

across the base of each apple so that

you can twist both ends of the wire

together, giving the apple what looks

like a long, thin stem. The wire

makes it easy to fix the apples to the

chicken-wire. Work in layers round

and round the urn, from the base

I've missed out the bit that really divides professionals such as Mr Thomas from muddlers like me. He had covered the plastic urn with moss - real moss. "Oh, just stick it on with a glue gun," he said airily. But that's what they always used to say on Blue Peter and there never seemed to be any "just" about it. My moss will be crawling with woodlice and heaving with damp. It's not what they are used to in Mayfair. But I'm going to try anyway. Obviously, the mossing needs to be done before the rest of the work starts.

What with urns and indoor wreaths. Christmas is becoming dangerously innovative. The whole point of it, as far as the children are concerned, is that each year should be exactly the same as the year before. It took years to wean them off paper chains. Making them used to 🕻 . be their first job when the Christmas holidays started.

EST EVER 11

the Perfect Christ

I myself always found them curiously depressing: memories of church halls and WI socials. The children did not share this antipathy and spewed out paper chains with manic ferocity. Fixing them when all your plaster is soft lime and horsehair is a problem. We never got through a Christmas day without a chain breaking loose and draping itself dismally over the cake.

But while they were paper chazz' fetishists. I was at the start of an antithetic addiction to candles, which continues still. Candles are great allies. In their mendacious light, nobody can see all the things you haven't done in your preparations for the great day. Happy Christmas.

The Art of Floral Design' features floral decorations by Paul Thomas (Ward Lock, £20). Paul Thomas's flower shop. The Greenery, is at 4 Shepherd Street, Mayfair, London W1Y 7LN (0171-499 6889)

'Arrangements' is far too wooden a word. These are creations. Happenings. Theatre. I loved them. Especially one that showed a plastic urn, covered in moss, then piled high with green apples

amaryllis, gilded twisty willow, sacks of fir cones and outrageously butch roses. When I arrived, he was building a miraculous decoration (one of many) for the chairman of Unilever's Christmas party.

The container was a tall, frosted glass vase, shaped like the galvanised French flower-buckets that interior designers use as a passport to the land of Style. Silvered twisty willow wound its contorted a quirky, pineapple-like finial on the

narrow path winding towards the Boy in a velvet suit..." It was sham-unsteady. "Oh!" responded Mr counter between buckets of pink ing that he had to spell it out, but he Thomas with horror. "I couldn't risk did it very kindly.

I'd gone there because of a new book, The Art of Floral Design, which features his flower arrangements. In fact, "arrangements" is far too wooden a word. These are creations. Happenings. Theatre. I loved them. Especially one that showed a plastic urn (not a very big one), covered in moss, then piled high with green apples. A spider plant made

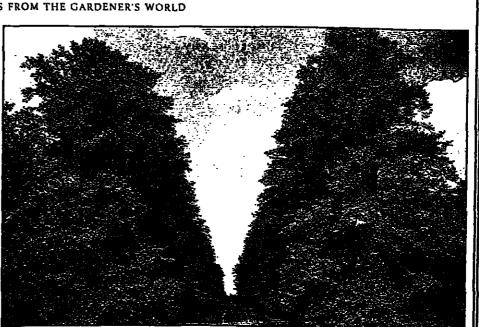
a collapse like that at Claridges."

So this is how you do it. You halffill the urn with gravel, to stop it toppling over top-heavily. You ram a dome of crumpled chicken wire on top of the urn (the shape is important, as this is the underpinning for the final form) and wire it firmly into place. Then you pack loose sphagnum moss (florists call it sack moss) into the chicken wire.

This is where the stub wires

CUTTINGS

NEWS FROM THE GARDENER'S WORLD



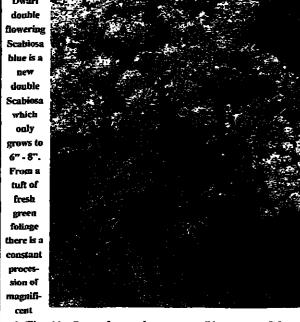
Trees grown from foreign seed are less well-adapted to Britain

CHILDREN (WITH an adult gardens all over the world. in tow) will be admitted free They include coastland gardens, wetland gardens, to Kew Gardens this dryland gardens, weekend for a series of Mediterranean gardens

special Christmas events. Father Christmas is making an appearance, there are horse-drawn omnibus rides along the Broad Walk and

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Tree News, the seed specialist Dr Andrew Gordon analyses the available statistics on broad-leaved trees planted

IN THE latest edition of

in Britain since the 1960s. He concludes that between 70 and 85 per cent of the broad-leaved trees planted in this country are of foreign origin and finds that the majority of British nurseries rely on trees grown from imported seed.

Does this matter? Yes, it

does. In the same issue, Dr

Richard Worrell of **Edinburgh University** compares the survival and growth in Britain of trees of native and foreign origin. He shows that many native British trees grown from well-adapted to British growing conditions than British natives grown from British collected seed. Growth is less robust and the survival rate is poorer. For most species, in most areas, Dr Worrell concludes that the best trees will be of British origin, and that biodiversity is best served by planting trees raised

from seed gathered from a region close to the planting site. Free copies of Tree News are available from the Tree Council at 51 Catherine Place, London SW1E 6DY (0171-828 9928).

IS IT necessary for the gardener to be at odds with nature, asks garden designer John Brookes.

In his latest book, The New Garden (Dorling Kindersley £16.99), he shows how gardens should be "of their place", each responding to local climate. soil, flora, fauna and cultural traditions. By "new", he does not mean a garden made on virgin territory. Rather, he is encouraging us to look at gardens in a new way: use local materials in their construction, instead of ubiquitous concrete pavers, and work with prevailing conditions instead of

against them. That kind of dictatorial dominance never makes for a comfortable garden. The book is based on a series of case histories, with plans and plantings taken from

Find the best match for your own situation and learn from a master of understated style.

choirs at the Victoria Gate Visitor Centre. Added to the delicious scent of mahonias and flowering viburnums will be the smell of mulled wine and hot chestnuts. For further information about all events, phone 0181-332 5907.

A hundred places of solitude

To experience a sense of ersatz ownership, visit one of the many gardens that remain open over the Christmas season. By Ursula Buchan

here's nothing quite like a large, empty garden that you can pretend is all your own. And winter is the best time for such dreams. One of the best aspects of working as a professional gardener was the chance to do "glasshouse weekend duty". This consisted of unlocking the glasshouses, watering the plants in pots, checking the heating and ventilation, damping down the tiled floors to increase humidity, removing dead leaves from plants. It could hard work, in the summer at least. out it had ample compensations.

Having the Palm House at Kew to myself on a summer Saturday morning before the visitors were allowed in, or disturbing a covey of partridges on the Rock Garden at Wisley very early on a foggy November day, were experiences I should not want to have missed. I felt grateful for the - mainly unearned - privilege of having a large and famous garden practically to myself. I could pretend that it was my responsibility, mine to redesign, renovate, change and even, possibly improve as I liked. I never felt the same creative urge on any other day.

Occasional weekend duties were compulsory, and still are no doubt, ause greenhouse plants need tending seven days a week. But there was one duty, that of Christmas Day, that was purely voluntary. Always anxious to get home to my family, I never put my name forward for this, and now I rather regret it.

the duty each year. It meant a slightly heavier pay packet, of course, but I think he, like me, rather enjoyed the solitude and the sense of ersatz ownership. I recall him telling me that when he had spare time, he would wander round the gardens counting the flowers that were out.

If December has seen few frosts. it is surprising how much will be flowering over Christmas: Rhododendron 'Christmas Cheer' perhaps, Helleborus niger in warm districts, and almost everywhere Viburnum x bodnantense and V farreri, Iris unguicularis, and, of course, winter jasmine Uasminun nudiflorum). But there will be more which are refugees from other seasons, whose impulse to flower has been triggered by climatic factors, not day length: a bearded iris or two, a climbing rose perhaps, the odd herbaceous geranium, heart's ease, and polyanthus.

Of course, gardens in the favoured south-west will boast the greatest number of flowers but, even in my cold garden. I would bet on finding 15 or 20 plants flowering at Christmastime.

There are plenty of gardens open at this time of year where the theory can be tested. Botanic gardens, such as Kew, Cambridge, Birmingham, Liverpool, Dublin, Glasgow and Edinburgh have very generous opening arrangements, sometimes shut only on Christmas Day itself, but there are also other parks and gardens all over the British Isles that are open in daylight hours through-

honesty of visitors to put their entry money in a box, their sense to keep dogs under control, and their sensitivity to realise that winter is often the time when large gardens have to be renovated, so borders may be empty, paths roped off, and trees repaired or cut down.

Ideally, the would-be winter garden visitor will have to hand a copy of the very useful National Trust leaflet, "Places to Visit in Winter" (write to The National Trust, PO Box 39, Bromley, Kent BR1 3XL, enclosing a first-class stamp), together with The Good Gardens Guide 1999, edited by Peter King (Bloomsbury, £14.99). Each entry in the guide includes a telephone number, so that you can check the December opening times.

guide, now in its 10th year, is its objectivity. The editor depends on a whole army of inspectors to look round the featured gardens each year, but the enterprise is not sponsored by any commercial concern. The 1999 guide includes 100 new gardens, with only a few of the old ones having fallen by the wayside. It also has a highly subjective, but nevertheless invaluable star system to alert the reader to the best gardens. It makes an excellent Christmas present and may just spur you to visit a garden you have not seen at this time of year before. If you are in luck, you will have the place to yourself, and can pretend that it is all yours. If not, well, you can always



The Palm House at Kew Gardens has generous opening times

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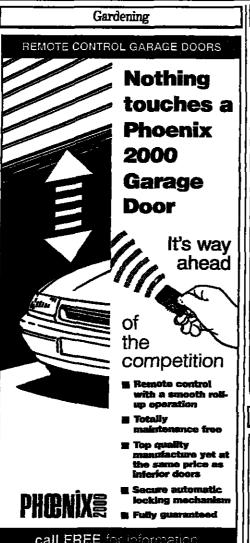
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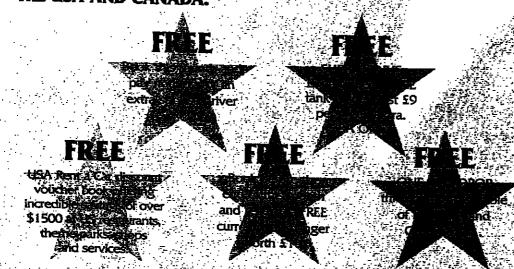
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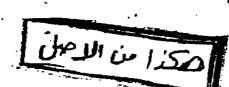
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The British love affair with Val

Early snow, amazing views - just what is it that makes Val d'Isère such a uniquely popular ski resort? Stephen Wood finds out

he early-season skiing was excellent in Val d'Isère this year. The week before last, I skied down the D902, the old Alpine road from Bourg St Maurice, in France, to the Italian border. Soon afterwards, I skied across a car park. I suspect that, later in the day, I traversed the proving ground used for Europe's biggest four-wheel-drive motor show. But it was hard to tell when the whole area was covered with 80cm of snow.

Val d'Isère, allowing it to open for business on the last weekend in November and to stage the first race in skiing's World Cup in mid-December. By tradition, the British come early, too: last season, almost one in three skiers in the resort in December were Britons. And those who were there at the beginning of this month enjoyed good snow conditions, empty pistes and blue skies. The only downside, apart bitingly cold wind

But we like "Val" enough to go there throughout the season: the statistics show that only the French. with 51 per cent, make up a bigger share of its market than the British, who constitute 27 per cent, making it the most popular skiing resort in the world for British skiers (the statistics also suggest that you are unlikely to meet many Poles, Turks or South Africans on the slopes: those nationalities have, respectively, a 0.3 per cent, 0.2 per cent and 0.1 per cent share of the market).

So just what is so attractive about the resort? First, the Espace Killy neighbouring resort of Tignes – is absolutely huge (more than 100 skilifts, 300km of pistes), dramatically beautiful and high enough for reliable snow cover; and its skiing is so varied and demanding that it has raised a whole genre of international experts who never ski anywhere else", according to the Good Skiing Guide. Second, the reputation of the night life is such that ski operators have a hard time

anywhere else. Finally, the resort has managed to maintain its chic image despite operating on an almost industrial scale, coping with more than a quarter of a million skierweeks per season.

The image is unwarranted, as The snow usually comes early to core snowboarder music. Which

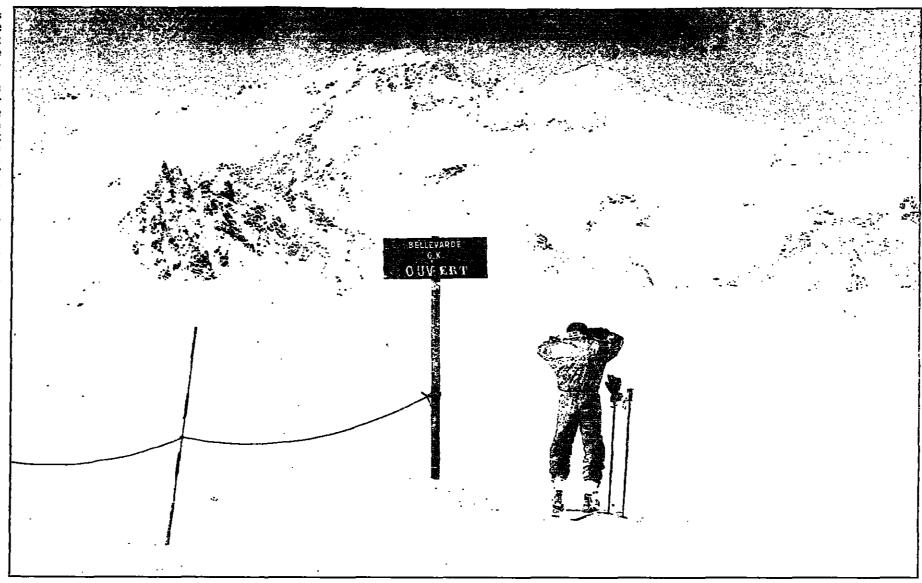
The top of the resort is absolutely sensational: the view off La Grande Motte is one of the great Alpine the north-east. Wait at the top for those who have travelled with you in the cable-car to disperse, and you can ski alone into a landscape which almost matches the Vallee Blanche in its epic scale. And at the bottom, from the fact that about half the ski there is a superbly varied black area had not yet opened, was a run down to the resort - called there is a superbly varied black Face, it was created as the downhill course for the 1992 Olympics which drops off the Bellevarde peak into a gully, then winds down to traverse a lumpy snow-field, and finally hurtles into the trees on a steep, But between the two is a ski-area

whose attractions are largely techskiing leaves me cold.

anyone who has been to Val - or watched BBC1's War and Piste docusoap - will know. The night life could well be exceptional, but I took up skiing too late in life to see the point in standing in a crowded nightclub drinking expensive brands of beer and being deafened by hardjust leaves the skiing.

nical: wide, fast pistes and plenty of unpisted terrain set in a vast, treeless snow-field that straddles the four valleys that run down to the resort. For those who want to improve their carving turns or powder technique, it's perfect; for those who (like me) prefer to find which disappear into glades and gullies, it's rather dull. In that huge ski-area, I like two things: the immaculately finished post-modern interior of the cafe/restaurant at the top of the La Daille lift and the switchback ride on the Lessières lift. which climbs out of one valley floor and drops down onto the next. The

Alarmed that, as apparently the persuading their chalet staff to work for Val. I might be missing some-



ski area - which Val shares with the adventure in the landscape, on runs Is that a car park over there? In Val d'Isère, the favourite resort of British skiers, early snowfalls conceal the humdrum

Peter Macdiarmid

thing, I consulted an old hand while I was there. Jason Grist, who worked in the resort for five years with the tour operator First Choice, isn't blind to its deficiencies: beginners, he says, "should be advised against coming - except for the night life. Although there are good nursery slopes in the Solaise area. I don't think it's a resort for people only British skier who hasn't fallen in their second or third week of skiing". He was much less sympathetic

about my skiing problem; for intermediates and experts, he reckons Val is "a paradise, particularly the off-piste Tour du Charvet" (too late: I spoke to him on my final evening

More helpfully, he believes that to feed to les bêtes. Val (he dislikes the nickname because it reflects the Sloaney past) is misjudged, particularly by Britons - and not just because it is no longer the skiing playground of the British ing mountain culture."

middle-class: "Ten years ago, yes; now it's much less exclusive. Fundamentally, it's still a French mountain village: when I worked at La Daille we used to give stale bread from the chalets to an old guy

"And underneath Val d'Isère there remains a community of Avalins" - the local name for natives of the Isere valley - "with a surviv-

Grist regrets that visiting Britons are so oriented towards skiing. "In a 'welcome' meeting at Club Med, guests are told about Alpine pursuits such as snowshoeing, mountainwalking and cross-country skiing, and maybe 20 per cent will take them up. British guests would have no interest at all."

His remedy for my disaffection with Val d'Isère was to go up to the Tour du Charvet with an Avalin

guide on my next visit. "I guarantee that you will discover five or six things that you didn't know about the area, and if you're lucky you'll see a flock of wood grouse."

That struck a chord: I went straight out and bought a proper map of the area, to investigate the old mountain village which lies beneath the surface of the ski resort. Which is how I know I skied down

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FRAZZLED AND fed-up after a travel, on Thursday evening I did what I have never done before: ask an airline how much extra it would cost to fly in business class. "That'll be £337", came the reply: in other words three times the price of my economy ticket from Athens to London. After climbing back on to my feet, I politely declined and I was very glad that I did.

Seat 31D was very comfortable - especially when combined with its neighbours 31E, F and G. And, if stretching out across four middle seats on this Boeing 747 doesn't satisfy my need for personal space, I needed look no further than rows 27 to 30 inclusive, all of which are equally vacant.

There are 426 seats on a Olympic Airways jumbo jet, but on Thursday night only 43 of them were occupied (more accurately, I counted only 43 passengers on board; some of us were occupying more than one seat). To look after us. there were two pilots, a flight engineer and a dozen members of cabin crew, not to mention 14 loos. I have a theory about why flight 265 was so sparsely populated, which I shall expound in

First, though: you know when you find it hard to leave a place? This week, that was how Santorini was for me. But this inertia had nothing to do with the haunting beauty of the Cycladean island in midwinter. It was impossible to leave because on Wednesday morning Olympic Airways can-celled the flight to Athens.

Ah well, I thought as I settled down to get some work done while waiting for the next flight. at least it's a bright, clean airport. Then I got thrown out; Santorini's gleaming terminal closes between flights. By that stage, I was inured to inconvenience. Five out of the six Olympic Airways flights I took this week were late. The total number of explanations or apologies: one (two if you count the non-appearance of the flight from Santorini). And I have been on more waiting lists than a hypochondriac NHS patient.

Highlights from my thoroughly mangled schedule include the shortest time I have ever spent in any hotel, a flat four hours from check-in to



SIMON CALDER

Flying in Greece: I've been on more waiting lists than an NHS patient

of hotel: I had arrived in Athens 14 hours late, and had to get up at 3am to catch a 5am connection. This flight, inevitably, was itself delayed, so I could have stayed in bed longer. Eventually I unravelled the three-stage reason: first, there are no boarding gates at Athens airport, so everyone has to be bussed to the airport; next, Olympic schedules no fewer than five domestic departures for 5am; third, there appear to be only four buses.

We can only hope that the timekeeping at the 2004 Olympics in Athens is better than that of the national airline. Cronus, the Greek god of time,

would not be amused. The only flight that wasn't late actually managed to be five minutes early. Could this be because it was the only domestic sector on which Olympic faces competition - from Heraklion to Athens? An Air Greece plane had left 15 minutes earlier. The Olympic flight got off to a flying start, and overtook its rival

over the Aegean.

To return to the 'Boeing Celeste', which left Athens a mere 70 minutes late. My theory about the on-board void is simple: in the past year, competition has boomed between Athens and London. Perhaps the missing passengers were aboard the carriers that managed to leave on time: British Airways, easy-Jet, Virgin Atlantic, plus a timely new Greek airline, Cronus Air. A word of advice to Olympic: either upgrade your performance, or downsize your planes.

On a hike around the wide open spaces of the rear cabin, I got chatting to an Australian passenger, who wondered why Olympic had not chosen to offer us a treat: "They could have upcheck-out. No, it wasn't that sort graded us all to business class".



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Art, spirituality and amazing guacamole: just three good reasons to escape to Santa Fe for the festive season. By Kari Herbert

Christmas in margaritaville

pinion pine lay as thick on the seases as the snow piling up on the pavements. In the central plaza the adobe buildings squatted like great Christmas cakes; the walls the colour of marzipan, flat roofs with smooth royal icing and thousands of candles on top. Lining one side of the square were Pueblo and Navajo Indians. wrapped in colourful thick woven blankets. Seemingly impervious to the freezing temperature, they sat proudly with more blankets carpeting the ground in front, covered in an

fetishes and gourds. I had gone to Santa Fe to escape the trials and tribulations of Christmas in the UK, and although I thought it would be a miracle to find a place in America that did not play tinned Christmas carols on loud speakers everywhere, I

array of stunning handmade

turquoise jewellery, carved

was willing to give it a shot.

I had also heard that Santa Fe was, "Like way out man. Plenty of fairies, but not the kind you stick on a Christmas tree. Anyway, can you imagine a Native American putting stockings out for Santa?" It all sounded very intriguing.

It was. The tiny capital of New Mexico is awash with art and spirituality. It is a wonderfully relaxed mix of a place that has evolved into a city of quite some extremes. The palaces of the rich and famous rest lazily in the foothills of the spectacular Sangre de Christo mountains, overlooking the simplicity of the Native American reservations on the desert mesa below. This is a city in which you buy a newspaper in the street from a nuclear physicist who became disillusioned with his role in life, you hear Buddhists discussing philosophy over a Danish pastry and coffee in a French cafe, and see most traditional of hotels.

son itself? This materialised into thousands of farolitos in Santa Fe. Tiny lanterns, simply constructed with candles and brown paper bags, lined windowsills, walls and pavements. Chilli ristrus hung from beams on the adobe buildings, and coloured corncobs decorated doors and porches - underlying the huge interest people have

I sank into the bewildering range of restaurants with an air of surrender. There was everything from sushi to Tex Mex. A gastronomic heaven. I had never watched a waiter make guacamole at the table - nor tasted anything like it. I had also never been sung to by a waitress before. For traditionalists a turkey dinner could be found. accepting that great succulent chillies were the essential accompaniments to the meal. It was basically Christmas with a

twist, and a margarita.

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boring thing about Santa Fe

FACT FILE

rants and threw myself into the dies and later with Irish coffee slow current of Santa Fe's gift buying "frenzy". Laid-back would hardly seem an appropriate description. I fingered spurs and smoky leather saddlebags with a passing fascination, moved on to the gem shops selling everything from amethyst to fossilised mammoth tusks, and finally ended up languishing in a bookshop drinking coffee and listening to music that gave no indication

of the time of year. Yet Santa Fe's general air of lethargy, presumably induced by constant eating, would on occasion metamorphose into an atmosphere literally popping with excitement. I found myself being swept into a procession in the plaza as twilight fell, singing softly in Spanish and watching operatic pantomime devils dancing on roofs, refusing shelter to the Mary and Joseph who led the parade. The freezing night was warmed I took a break from restau- with the glow of hand-held can-

particularly around

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Santa Fe is a fun

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001 505 982 1200), or

plump for one of the

hotels like La Fonda

de Santa Fe (001 505

The art scene was not to be left out of the celebrations. On Christmas Eve, Canyon Road glittered with a fiery welcome. The Canyon Road walk is a

modern tradition; a chance to wander through a haze of carols sung by the side of small bonfires lit in the road, and look in some of the 83 galleries that open their doors and serve warmed wine and punch to customers and gazers. Making your way through the assorted revelry you get a

strong sense of Santa Fe's unique flavour. There was a glorious mix of spirituality with people wearing strange combinations of clothes and trinkets: accessories of Tibetan prayer-beads with dreamcatcher earrings; Saint Christopher necklaces and cowboy boots. Posters wallpapered notice boards promising fulfilment and self-growth by means of Goddess worship, rebirthing, Tantric meditation and line dancing.

I delved into the depths of my femininity at the Goddess workshop and became thoroughly scared, waiting for my inner Kali to come raging to the surface. So, I ended my Santa Fe experience not at a workshop for enlightenment, but at a bar at the end of Canyon Road listening to live jazz and drinking another of the legendary margaritas. Tables were cleared away as reallooking cowboys swung lonely through the doors, scrubbed clean and ready for a night's dancing with a "real lady". I managed to dip under the gaze of several beady eyes lookin' for lurve, after spying the array of polished spurs with trepidation, and I slipped out anonymously into the freezing night - only to be disappointed by the distinct lack of dusty mustangs

tied up outside. I arrived home with a taste for tequila, blue corn chips and chilli, and realised that I had hardly missed the fair of the Christmas tree.



Santa Fe's adobe buildings - a mix of Pueblo Indian and Spanish-Moorish styles

Corbis

SOMETHING TO DECLARE

NEWS FROM THE TRAVEL WORLD

Trouble spots: responses in the travel industry to the Anglo-American air strikes against Iraq.

After the first air strike, the Foreign Office issued the following advice: *We advise against travel to Israel and the Occupied Territories. British nationals already there should await further advice".

For other countries in the region except Iraq, the FO says: "Following the allied military strike against Iraq on 16 December, British nationals contemplating travelling to Middle East and Gulf countries should stay in touch with developments and take sensible precautions. They are strongly advised to register with the British Embassy and to follow local advice issued by the Embassy and its Consular Wardens."

For Iraq, the FO says simply that: "British nationals should not attempt to visit Iraq. We strongly advise any British nationals currently in Iraq to leave as soon as possible.'

British Airways Holidays is not taking any bookings for travel before 31 January to the following countries: Cyprus, Egypt, Israel and the UAE. Its parent company, British Airways, is changing its schedules on flights to Tel Aviv and Kuwait for "operational reasons" in order that aircraft crews do not have to make the normal stopover at these airports. Passengers booked to either destination who decide not to travel may get a full refund, in the form of a voucher for future travel on BA.

One of the airlines most involved in the Gulf region is Emirates, based in Dubai, which says: "Flights are continuing to operate normally, and we do not anticipate any disruption to services". The airline told The Independent that passengers who preferred not to travel because of the conflict can cancel without penalty.

For the latest Foreign Office travel advice, call 0171-238 4503, or BBC2 Ceefax page 470, or on the Internet at www.fco.gov.uk

Bargain of the week: festive fivers can get from central London to Heathrow more cheaply and easily.

The Heathrow Express is, as has been noted in these pages before, by far the most expensive train in Britain. But the £10 flat fare becomes a bargain on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, when almost all other public transport closes

down completely. The last time I made the journey from central London to Britain's busiest airport at Christmas the cab cost £50, including a festive tip. This year, though, travellers to Heathrow can take advantage of a full service on the train from Paddington station, not far from the centre of London. Families are set to benefit the most; each fare-paying adult

True or false: drunks are not allowed on Sydney Harbour Bridge

can take up to four under-16s free.

True. Motorists on the landmark bridge are subject to the New South

Wales blood-alcohol limit of 0.05 per cent. But pedestrians? Yes: anyone signing up for the new and extremely popular walk/climb over the beautiful arc is breathalysed, and those over the limit are refused permission to take part in the

three-hour adventure. So don't swig

a stiffener before you soar. BridgeClimb, the company that runs the operation, imposes other safety standards. Participants must wear special "Bridgesuits", grey tracksuits designed to avoid distracting motorists' attention. Harnesses must be worn, and fastened to static lines on the structure of the 70-year-old bridge. And even though Kodak is a sponsor of BridgeClimb, cameras are not allowed - to avoid the risk that users could fall from the top of

the 400ft structure while taking pictures of Sydney Harbour. To sign up for the climb, call 00 61 2 9252 0077 or consult www.bridgeclimb.com, the

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Visiting Cubz is like dipping into five centuries of history, the time that has elapsed since Christopher Columbus first came across the island. For various reasons Cuba has been the forgotten island in the Caribbean, caught in a time warp, known only for its political sensitivity and large cigars.

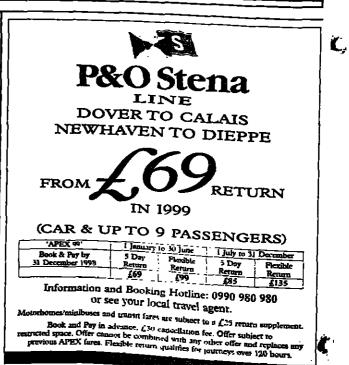
7 nights from £395 Yet Cuba is much more than this, Many of the towns and cities preserve their original colonia Spanish architecture - mansions, inner patios. colourful array of flowers, fruit and birdlife. squares, churches, cathedrals and old military Flights are with Monarch Airlines from fortresses are set in lush vegetation and rugged and to London Gatwick flying into Varadero mountains with the sea providing a deep blue on Cuba's north coast with road transfers to backdrop. The island also boasts a surprisingly Havana. and to London Gatwick flying into Varadero

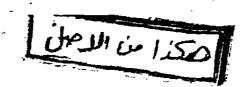
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There's no need to burn out

in Bunsen's home town Mark Twain

tramped there, and Turner painted there. Margaret **Campbell** takes childhood images to Heidelberg

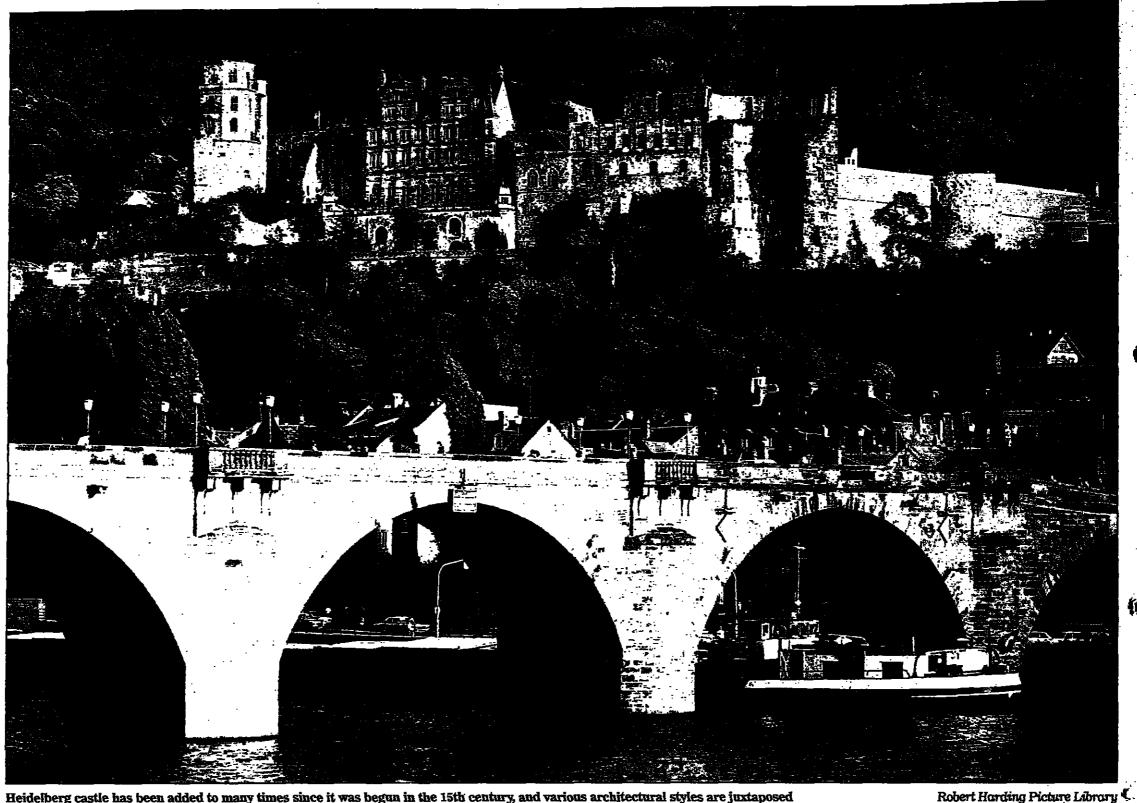
rst impressions of a place can have strange rigins: my picture of Heidelberg was formed through the viewfinder of a little plastic chalet, a souvenir brought back by family friends from their annual trip to Europe. Over the years, other layers were added to this childhood image of a ruined castle overlooking a river: the (rose-tinted?) memories of an older German friend who spent the Sixties there as a student: A Tramp Abroad, Mark Twain's account of his travels through Europe: David Lodge's portrait of post-war Heidelberg, divided between the victorious Americans

Part of the city's magic derives from the traditional and convivial student presence

and less prosperous locals, in Out of the Shelter. Finally, years on from that first

contact, I visited this celebrated town last month and realised again that some things are best experienced at first hand. Heidelberg really is breathtaking, particularly outside the summer season, when it is apparently overrun by tour buses and umbrella-waving guides. In any case, part of the city's magic derives from the mists that roll down over the hills, occasionally allowing a glimpse of their wooded banks, and from the traditional - and convivial - student presence.

There was no question about our steep path to the castle, pausing regularly to wonder at the view beneath before passing through thick stone walls into the courtyard. It was hard to know where to look first: once home to the Palatine electors, the present structure has been posed with the ruins of an enormous fire in 1764. One of the most striking remains, an ornate Renaissance summer opera productions, reveals only sky behind the top two floors. we were fit for more.



Heidelberg castle has been added to many times since it was begun in the 15th century, and various architectural styles are juxtaposed

The courtvard also houses an apothecary museum and the Heidelberger Fass, an enormous wine barrel made out of 130 oak trees in the 18th century and guarded by a statue of Perkeo, the heavyfirst destination: we climbed the drinking court jester who is reputed to have died after drinking a glass of water by mistake.

We could have spent hours exploring the castle interior and its museums, but were impatient to see the gardens and Elisabeth's Gate an arched gateway allegedly built in added to many times since it was a single night for James VI's daughbegun in the 15th century, and var- ter, who married Elector Friedrich ious architectural styles are juxta- in 1610. However, it was raining by now, so after a quick walk around, we visited one of Heidelberg's cafés, which almost deserve to be visited façade that serves as a backdrop to as attractions in their own right. A few slices of cheesecake later, and

There has been a university here since 1386, making it Germany's oldest, and its buildings are scattered throughout the Alte Stadt. The most unusual has to be the Studentenkarzer, the dungeon for errant students (in the past, they were not subject to civil courts and could not be imprisoned in the town jail); the cell walls are covered in graffiti. The statue of Robert Bunsen brought back memories of school science labs, but this distinguished scientist was better known in his day for sep-

arating the colours of the spectrum. Traditionally, the students were grouped into fraternities, with their own flags and rules of membership. Fencing skills were essential, and a fighting-scar was as much a rite of passage as a stay in the cells. The flags of the different fraternities, now existing more as optional social

ciuos, nutuer over the streets. Stu dent taverns abound, the most note-the towering Gothic Heiliggeistworthy of which is the Zum Roten kirche is a bit of a contrast. Once Ochsen (Hauptstrasse 217), where

home to Germany's largest library, Bismarck and Mark Twain both ate. it was plundered during the Thirty Much of Heidelberg was razed in Years War and its riches were transthe 1690s by invading French troops. ferred to the Vatican. Outside. the

Among student fraternities, a fighting scar was a rite of passage – as was a stay in the cells

One of the few buildings to remain buttresses contain little market standing was the ornate Haus zum Ritter, also on Hauptstrasse. This fanciful edifice, topped by a statue of St George and whose facade is covered in Latin inscriptions, served as the town hall before becoming an

stalls, at one time common outside large churches. It was too cloudy to climb to the bell tower but on a clear day you can see all the way down the Neckar valley and even make out the Alps in the distance. Marktplatz,

detween the church and the Rathaus, was formerly the site of public judgments, executions and humiliation (citizens could be placed in the Triller, a rotating cage, for minor offences up until 1740). And then we window-shopped along the (considerable) length of the pedestrianised Hauptstrasse and its nar-

row side-streets. Next day, we crossed the river and walked up the Schlangenweg to Philosopher's Way, a charming walk that gives the best view of this apogee of German romanticism: steep-forested hillsides, a swift course of water and the castle, inspiration for Turner and described by Twain as "the Lear of inanimate nature". The winding path back down the valley took us out on the From Britain, the most convenient

riverside, and we stopped for a few

minutes to try to distinguish where

Karl Theodor bridge (remember that chalet?) merged into the cen-

tral pillars, reconstructed after the

The Plank Mo

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ed one Downland

bridge had been damaged in the Second World War.

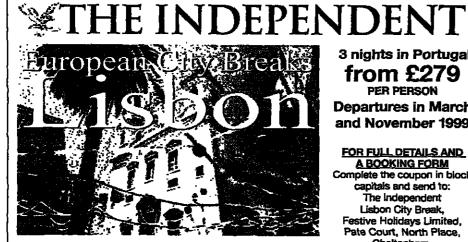
The Baroque towers and gateway leading back into the Old Town were also once used as cells. This constant reminder of criminality seemed at odds with Heidelberg history as a centre for theolog Martin Luther came here to defend his doctrines, and the Heidelberg Catechism of 1563 became one of the textbooks of Calvinism).

And I even saw some plastic chalets for sale - but sent a suitably atmospheric postcard home instead.

airport for Heidelberg is Frankfurt, an hour's train journey away

Channel ferry gets that sinking feelings

The Newhaven-Dieppe service is a link with history as well as France. By Gerard Gilbert



Tively and cosmopolitan, Lisbon possesses a very special character Land charm. Set on the banks of the Tagus River, the city presents an intriguing combination of the old and the new - its long and varied history can be seen everywhere, and yet it offers all the attractions of a modern metropolis. Once one of the most important ports in the world and capital of the Portuguese Empire, Lisbon's maritime heritage has always been a source of great pride to the city as the Monument to the Discoverers and the Impressive Vasco de Gama Bridge illustrate. There are many other attractions to be admired too. including the Belem Tower, St George's Castle and the Hieronymite Monastery. As well as a city of beautiful buildings, you will also find in Lisbon excellent restaurants, fashionable shops and sophisticated nightlife in its colourful streets. So come with us and discover for yourself the unique quality that makes Lisbon one of the most interesting and beautiful cities in the world. INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

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from £279 PER PERSON have jumped off the back of it, Departures in March Georges Simenon named a and November 1999 book after it, and the future Vietnamese liberation leader Ho Chi Minh worked as a pas-FOR FULL DETAILS AND try cook on it. But it now looks A BOOKING FORM increasingly likely that the Complete the coupon in block Newhaven-Dieppe ferry will be capitals and send to: consigned to its colourful past The Independent as P&O Stena prepares to pull

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than 700,000 a year, P&O Stena is claiming losses of £8m on the Newhaven-Dieppe link - a victim, it is claimed, of increased competition from the Channel Tunnel. The company has already pulled its troubled fast ferry service. The Elite, from the crossing, and now only one ancient ferry, The Cambria, chugs across from the Sussex coast. The future of even that will depend on the results of P&O's "consultation period" with UK and French unions. Most people expect a withdrawal from Newhaven, once the lucrative Christmas period is over.

OSCAR WILDE went into exile

the plug on the much-loved

173-year-old cross-channel

service between East Sussex

With passenger numbers

down from 1 million to fewer

and Normandy.

on it, Lord Lucan is reputed to rationalisation of the Channel crossings is now in full swing. Competition with Le Shuttle has already forced Sally Line off its Ramsgate-Ostend crossing. Luckily for Ramsgate, Thanet District Council has now set up a consortium to run freight services to Ostend, with, they hope, passenger services resuming in the New Year.

Lewes Council in East Sussex has no such easy solution. Newhaven's port is in private hands, owned by Sea Containers. "Sea Containers is interested only in Sea Containers", claims Norman Baker, Liberal Democrat MP for which includes Newhaven. "Its strategy over the past 10 years has been minimum expenditure - just enough to deal with maintenance of statutory obligations - while bleeding as much

money as it can out of the port. We would not be in this situation if the port and the ferry were in public hands. That may sound old Labour, or old Liberal, but it is difficult not to draw that conclusion."

Steve Lawrence at Sea Containers thinks that's just an old argument. The company

It looks as if the post-Tunnel has invested £2m in port infrastructure this decade, he says, but was unwilling to go ahead with the far more expensive deepening of the port without the long-term commitment to Newhaven from P&O Stena.

"As port owners, we were unable to agree commercial terms with P&O Stena," says Mr Lawrence. "They were unable to commit to long-term agreement. But that is an old problem. At the moment, we have submitted plans for the development of Newhaven's West Quay. As regards the ferry link, we have given commitment in principle to operate a fast ferry link from next Easter should P&O pull out. If that's not doing something for Newhaven, then what is?" So it seems that a potentially

lucrative and popular ferry crossing is going begging - or will be when and if P&O Stena. as expected, pulls out of the route. If the EU suspends July's abolition of duty free, there will be added incentive for an independent operator to enter the fray. Newbaven is the closest passenger port to France from London, and likewise Dieppe is the closest port to Paris. Sitting in his stylish post-modernist office in and Rouen so that it is virtually Dieppe, the town's Communist mayor, Christian Cuvillez, is adamant about the French

commitment to the crossing.
"We will not let the line die," he says firmly. The port is already preparing a stop-gap freight-only service should P&O Stena pull out. He is sceptical about the ferry company's losses, claiming that about £3m of the £8m deficit is due to P&O Stena diverting freight traffic to its Dover-Calais crossing.

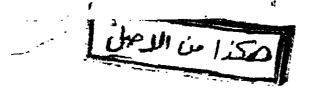
The investment that has been pumped into the French side of the crossing dwarves anything in East Sussex. Dieppe has borrowed heavily to dredge an outer port (to berth the new generation of superferries) and to build a state-ofthe-art ferry terminal. The regional council for Upper Normandy has also upgraded the main road between Dieppe

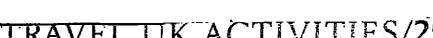
now a motorway. A severing of the cross-Channel link with England would put in jeopardy the last plank in this alternative London-Paris route - an upgrading of the Dieppe-Rouen railway that could link the port with France's TGV network.

Monsieur Cuvillez and a 70strong delegation from Dieppe were in Westminster recently, lobbying Glenda Jackson, the Transport Minister Their ferry from Dieppe left at 3.45am and was an hour late docking symptoms of a run-down service that is putting more and more people off the route.

"But despite problems with the boats, despite poor time keeping," says Norman Baker, MP for Lewes, "700,000 passengers were carried last year. They used the line in spite of P&O Stena, rather than because of it."









Little appears to have changed in the Black Mountains - although the cows are now bar-coded and free-range chickens have disappeared under a pile of regulations

The secret home of the hermit

The Black Mountains, between Wales and England, are home to wild legends and spectacular scenery. By Natasha Edwards

t is a strange experience returning as a visitor to the place where you grew up. Suddenly you get a new perspective on it what it has to offer, and on its secrets. Home is border country: a tiny section of the Black Mountains, the border between Gwent and Powys (our river) and, further east, between Wales and England (Offa's Dyke), but rather than resembling one or other, this is an area that is just as distinctively itself.

Our river, the Grwyne Fawr (big), to distinguish it from the Grwyne Fechan (little) - woe betide anyone who dares call it a stream - provides the constant sound of rushing water. When we were children we would spend hours playing Pooh Sticks on ne bridge, constructing stone dams and building twig rafts, all combined in, but it's not just nostalgia that still makes me want to stay. When I'm here my periphery is willingly limited to a tiny sphere where I know every tree, every rickety gate and every boulder.

There are two conventional tourist sights that merit inclusion in any guidebook: in the next valley, the ruins of Llanthony Abbey complete

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with convenient pub in the old cel- are an ancient font, two stone altars ing with a picnic and with perilous saint, too: none of your famous biblical numbers, but the obscure local martyr Merthyr Issui, by whose

walked here one day and ran into two complete with oak leaves and tourists; now you may well find a dragons at each end. all of which coachload), and, closer to home should have disappeared with the and more private, Patricio church. Reformation, only this church was We're proud to have our own private too remote for anyone to bother. much an area steeped in history, as There are memorial tablets with jolly, trumpet-playing angels and frescoes on the wall. As well as the name the church has come out as royal coat of arms (compulsory Patrishow, or Patricio. Issui was a after the Restoration) and the 10 First Crusade, while the romantihermit who was murdered by an un- Commandments, my favourite is cally named Coed Dias (field of

lars (Kilvert complained when he and a finely carved rood screen, stepping-stones across the stream to the sheep dip, the final chal-

lenge; now it is a short evening stroll. It is a landscape that has been worn with time, but this is not so one where history, legend and the imagination are totally muddled up. The Archbishop of Canterbury crossed our bridge preaching the

This is not so much an area steeped in history, as one where history, legend and the imagination are totally muddled up

stream and left a crock of gold to build the church.

The story surely changes each time in the telling, but the church, perched on a mountainside, is a gem. It's sometimes lost in the clouds, although a stone bench along one outside wall and a outdoor pulpit testify to optimistic days when the service was occasionally held outside. Inside

grateful traveller to whom he had the doom figure - a far from fright- blood) and the Stone of Vengeance resenting Time, noicii hourglass and a spade in one hand, a dagger in the other.

Above the church, the lane goes through a funnel of dry-stone wall to become open mountain and a favourite walk. Bracken, heather, gorse, mountain ash and wily mountain sheep - only the scale has changed. When I was a child, this would seem like a marathon, start-

given shelter. A subsequent pilgrim ening, barrel-ribbed skeleton rep- (another favourite picnic spot) testity to the site where rival tribes wrought terrible vengeance after a dinner party turned into a massacre. Who can remember whether that battle really took place, whether the Cwmyoy landslide happened at the moment of the crucifixion, or where the Devil put his footstep? All are equally believable.

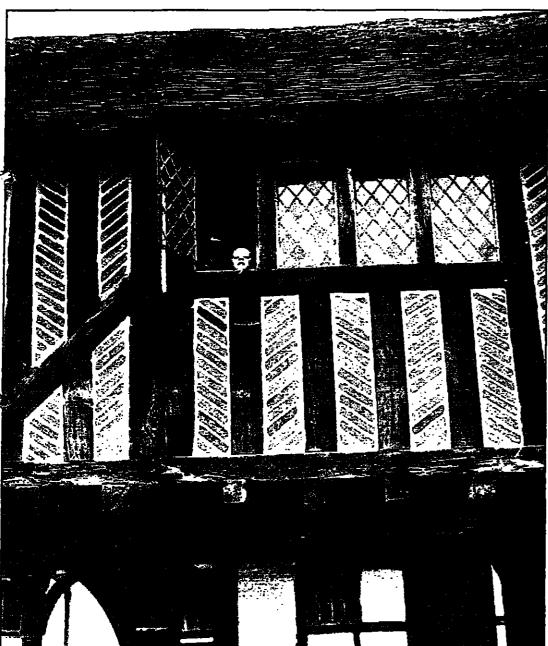
Not that the area has remained unchanged. The cows are now bar-

coded, free-range chickens have disappeared under a pile of regulations, and the farmers are getting older. Tourism seems to have become more organised, too, although whether it's protection of the environment or mollycoddling of the visitor is hard to tell. The last few metres of the Sugar Loaf, once a rocky scramble, are now crowned by steps. The walk through the marshy alder wood in the cwm - a mysterious valley full of rare, dank plants which was previously so wet and boggy that only my brother and I would go there – is now neatly duckboarded and waymarked; the species are indicated, and you could walk there in sandals.

Happily no one has yet found the hermit's shack half-way up the hill. A mysterious ramshackle ruin with bits of pointed arch, the remnants of a spiral staircase in odd bits of wood and concrete and a wobbling plank bridge across the stream designed to keep all but the determined out, it was the home, so we were told, of a tailor from Gloucester who went there to escape the nuclear bomb. The threat may be gone, but I can understand why this was the one place in the world where he chose to seek refuge.



The ruins of Llanthony Abbey



The Weald and Downland Museum – history re-sited

Donald Hiscock

Where you absorb the essence of time and place

From watermill to Victorian cottage, at the Weald and Downland open-air museum in Sussex you mooch your way through four centuries of rural life. By **Donald Hiscock**

SOMETIMES YOU get faintly photocopied pieces of paper passed round an office that list spoof courses. I thought I had found the rural equivalent when I picked up a leaflet at the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum in West Sussex. I read about "Heavy Horses: Shaft and Pole Work", "Continuous Hurdle Fencing" and then my eyes strayed to an "Introduction to Charcoal Burning" that included the "Webster Retort".

Far from being a joke, they are some of the courses this innovative museum runs throughout the year. If you're really serious, you can enrol for an MSc in Timber Building Conservation, in partnership with Bournemouth University. But we had come for a leisurely mooch through the preserved buildings re-sited here at Singleton, to the north of Chichester. The only course we took on a chilly winter day was the circuit around the museum site, to clamber in and out of its 40 or so historic buildings preserved on a 50acre downland setting.

I didn't realise that lath and plaster tiles, bricks and different types of thatch were so interesting, but starting the visit in an 18th-century barn you are given an easy-to-digest survey of the type of building materials to come. If the children start tugging at your coat to move on, you can have a wry laugh a few buildings further on where they get to play with bricks. Trying to form a Flemish Bond kept them absorbed for long enough for the parents to sneak a chocolate bar and a cup of coffee

from the Thermos flask. Then it's off to the Watermill, transported here from Lurgershall, to watch grain being ground into flour. For lovers of obscure milling phraseology, you can learn about wallowers, stone nuts and shoes vibrated by a damsel. I was reminded of Chaucer, but my wife in turn reminded me that we had promised the children they could buy a bag of grain each to throw at the ducks on

ings, that form a sort of village square, there is a pair of adjoining Victorian cottages. You enter one of them, and the entire place is left bare to show you the stages of its construction. When you walk through into next door, you are in touch with simple life. Four furnished rooms show you what it must have been like to bring up five children in cramped conditions. Today, ironically, these cottages would be prized and modernised as second homes, by those escaping the cramped conditions of

On the edge of a cluster of build-

Here you can learn about wallowers, stone nuts and shoes vibrated by a damsel

the millpond. I could have lingered late 20th century city dwelling.

longer over this ancient technology. You're never quite sure what you are going to get when you enter a house, cottage or Victorian school room. What you do not get is a heavy dose of history set out on display boards - rather, you absorb the essence of place and time. Some buildings have log fires going, and unobtrusive volunteers who will answer questions. Others have recordings of what it was like to be a skilled practitioner of some once-important craft, and an explanation of the tools such tradesmen used.

When you think you are tired of the minutiae of domestic architecture, Bayleaf Farmstead with its 15th-century Wealden house and adjoining barn and gardens, is the place to visit. Here wallow large, gold-coloured pigs, friendly chickens and passing shire horses pulling hay carts. Inside the house, in the family bedroom, the children discovered the en suite garderobe.

In one of the barns was probably the highlight of the visit for my younger son. An exhibition on lead work and plumbing featured a free). Family ticket (2+2) £14

Thomas Crapper flushing toilet. Not for him the fascination of a charcoal burner's kiln, or the memory of seeing a treadwheel for raising water. What got him giggling, and still does, is the mention of that famous Victorian plumber

The museum is still growing. The latest addition is the late 16thcentury Poplar Cottage. which you can see being restored in a workshop on the site. A recent £1m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund has taken the museum a stage closer to the realisation of its ambitious project to build a conservation centre and shop. The wooden structure will be the largest of its kind in Britain.

It was dusk when we left the museum. We had spent almost four hours treading merrily through four centuries of social and architectural history. And, by the way, did you realise that the gearing ratio between the watershaft and the mainshaft in the Mill is roughly 1:3? Not many people know that.

The Weald and Downland Museum (01243 811348) is situated just off the A286 Chichester to Midhurst road at Singleton, West Susser. Buses to Chichester, Bognor Regis and other towns stop at the entrance. Winter opening: to 28 February. Weds, Sat and Sun only, 10.30am-4pm. Rest of the year: 10.30am-6pm daily. Adults £5.20, children £2.50 (under-fives

NEW FILMS

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U) Director: Brenda Chapman, Simon Wells,

Michelle Pfeiffer DreamWorks honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged Countrywide

Steve Hickner Voiced by: Val Kilmer, Ralph Figures and

his cartoon Life of Moses "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result merely winds up as The Ten Commandments by way of Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

GENERAL RELEASE

See The Independent Recommends, right.

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

The follow-up to Babe tosses the hapless "sheep-pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of assorted waifs. of a bleak animatronic fairytale.

Out of jail after serving a sentence for GBH, oldest "boy" Brett Sprague (David Wenham) moves back pigeon-toed life. into his mum's drab suburban home, terrorises his girlfriend and turns his younger brothers into petty henchmen. The Boys spotlights the down-side of life Mix Twelve Monkeys with Four Weddings and a Down Under - it's potent, predatory stuff.

DANCING AT LUGHNASA (PG)

Less a dance, more of a trudge, Pat O'Connor's Irelandset saga pinpoints the ebb and flow of an eccentric IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (U) Catholic family in deepest Donegal. What gives it backbone is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister, plus the ever-watchable Michael Gambon as the homecoming brother, Kathy Burke, Catherine McCormack and Brid Brennan also feature.

DEAD MAN'S CURVE(15)

All the students at writer-director Dan Rosen's nameless American college are trying to butcher each other, led into temptation by an obscure regulation which awards straight-A grades to room mates of suicides. Though not as deliciously nasty as the Scream films, Dead Man's is this enchanting and intelligent. Curve delivers a respectable quota of shocks.

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to Bandit Queen is the story of another female figurehead - this time, it's Queen Elizabeth I - struggling to succeed in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty.

THE EXORCIST (25TH ANNIVERSARY RERELEASE) (18)

The Exorcist is a creature conditioned by rumour and hearsay. Pull it into the light, though, and Friedkin's seminal horror is still efficiently terrifying.

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18) Knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour Terry Gilliam's adaptation tilts at Ralph Steadman cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled journalistic assignment. The film soon descends into a carnival of narcotic lunacy and the one stand-out is Johnny Depp - who brings Hunter S Thompson into bald-headed,

Funeral and you'd get Maria Ripoll's dreadful Anglo-Spanish comedy about a dumped boyfriend who THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG) is transported back in time.

A freshly restored print of Frank Capra's classic means audiences have a rare chance to appreciate the film's struggles amid a lot of colourful duels and clattering fine black-and-white photography on the big screen. set-pieces.

THE LAST DAYS OF DISCO (15)

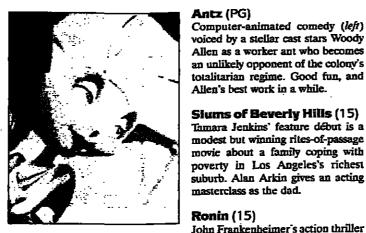
light from the glitterball, the dancers are united in their absent-minded beauty. Stillman does a fine job of capturing the mixture of flair, invigoration and uncertainty by which any burgeoning trend is MULAN (U) characterised and it's refreshing to find a work that Disney's animated feature has a pro-active heroine

LOCK, STOCK AND TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels' defining characteristic is its resilient morality. The picture is MY NAME IS JOE (15) peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy falls into the former category; but Joe (Peter Mullan), a recovering alcoholic. Mu Name Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is a is Joe brilliantly spotlights the groung hopes and thwartdangerous old-school pro.

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE THREE BEST FILMS



Antz (PG) Computer-animated comedy (left) voiced by a stellar cast stars Woody Allen as a worker ant who becomes an unlikely opponent of the colouv's

Siums of Beverly Hills (15) Tamara Jenkins' feature début is a modest but winning rites-of-passage movie about a family coping with poverty in Los Angeles's richest suburb. Alan Arkin gives an acting masterclass as the dad.

Ronin (15)

John Frankenheimer's action thriller is buttressed by a fine international cast (including Robert De Niro, Jean Reno, Stellan Skarsgard), moody French locations and a clutch of supercharged car chases.

ANTHONY OLTHN

THE THREE BEST PLAYS

Hindle Wakes Royal Exchange, Manchester

Spectacularly refurbished after the 1996 bombing, this theatre bounces back in fine resilient form with the excellent production which had to be aborted then. To 9 Jan

Martin Guerre West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds

It's third time lucky for this much rewritten Boublil/Schonberg musical. In Conall Morrison's starkly involving production (right), it finally emerges as a tighter, magnificent show. To 13 Feb

The Boy Who Feli Into a Book

Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough Typically witty and ingenious concept from Alan Ayckbourn - here wearing his children's dramatist hat. To 9 Jan

PAUL TAYLOR

This gaudy swashbuckler gallops full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. A bite-sized history lesson on West Coast politics

LES MISERABLES (12)

in the fictional club at the centre of Whit Stillman's Bille August turns Victor Hugo's enormous slightly sad comedy, everything sparkles - under the novel into an enormous film and it's as traditional as grown-up film star when most of Hollywood's male literary adaptations come these days. It's earnest, deferential and almost humourless.

a strong father/daughter relationship; honour and nobility; and, of course, cross-dressing. It's also one of the most visually innovative movies that Disney has

Ken Loach's solid social-realist drama tells the tale of ed ambitions of Britain caught below the poverty line.

THE NEGOTIATOR (15) Samuel L Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to head

in Gray's thrilling drama. The script has a predilection for lunk-headed swearing that sounds uneasy in the mouths of such articulate, rhetorical performers.

OUT OF SIGHT (15)

George Clooney plays the law-breaking hero as a down-and-dirty version of Cary Grant, and turns in the best performance of his career so far. He is a leads don't look old enough to get served in a pub.

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

The Parent Trap catches Disney cannibalising its own back catalogue; re-heating its 1961 Hayley Mills heart-warmer into a spry: cross-cultural caper starring Lindsay Lohan as the separated-at-birth twin sisters who are determined to get their parents RUSH HOUR (15) back together.

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY (U)

Sublime cinema. It's a romantic comedy but there's nothing trivial about it. George Cukor's movie has a strange and melancholy heart and Katharine SLUMS OF BEVERLY HILLS (15) Hepburn's unsatisfied heiress sheds real tears.

PLAYING GOD (18)

Cracker director Andy Wilson suffers a lesson in Hollywood politics with this glossy but garbled thriller about a junkie doctor (David Duchovny) embroiled with a gang of counterfeiters headed by Tim Hutton.

See The Independent Recommends, above.

ROUNDERS (15) John Dahl's poker-club thriller is not a great comeback

for the director of The Last Seduction, but it is certainly an improvement on his last film, the eminently forgettable Unforgettable. But its main problem is the weak hand dealt by Dahl's golden boy star, Matt Damon, who is out acted by almost everyone else in

Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker star in this hit-andmiss affair, which continues the Americanisation of the Hong Kong action icon, marrying him with an LA backdrop and a wisecracking black comic.

See The Independent Recommends, above.

CINEMA

ABERDEEN

ODEON (08795-050007); The Parent Trap (PG): Babe: Pig in the City (U): The Prince of Egypt (U): Rush Hour (15): Enemy of the State (15): Antz (PG): Out of Sight (15): The Mask of Zorro (PG)

VIRGIN (0541-202050); Out of Sight (15): There's Something About Mary (15): The Prince of Egypt (U): Rush Hour (15); Mulan (U); Enemy of the State (15); Blade (18); The Negotiator (15); Babe: Pig in the City (U): Air Bud (U): The Mask of Zorro (PG): The Parent Trap (PG): Tim Burton's the Nightmare Before Christmas (PG): Small Soldiers (PG)

BIRMINGHAM

MAC (0121-440 3838); Mulan (U); The Last Days of Disco (15): Ever After (PG); There's Something About Mary (15)

ODEON (08705-050007): Dr Dolittle (PG): Enemy of the State (15): The Parent Trap (PG): Ronin (15): The Prince of Egypt (U): The Exorcist (25th Anof Light (15): Babe: Pig in the City (U): Godzilla (PG): Small Soldiers (PG): The Mask of Zorro (PG): Antz (PG); Rush Hour (15): Blade (18): The Negotiator

ARCADIAN CENTRE VIRGIN 555177); Enemy of the State (15); Rush Hour (15); Mulan (U); The Prince of Egypt (U): Small Soldiers (PG); Ronin (15); Out of Sight (15); The Parent Trap (PG); Blade (18); The Mask of Zorro (PG); The Negotiator (15): Flubber (U)

GREAT PARK VIRGIN (0121-4530465); The Truman Show (PG): Godzilla (PG): Antz (PG): The Negotiator (15): Small (15); The Mask of Zorro (PG); Lock. Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Fairytale: A True Story (U); The Prince of Egypt (U): Tim Burton's the Night-mare Before Christmas (PG): Anastasia (U): Out of Sight (15): Saving Private Ryan (15); Rush Hour (15); Blade (18): Enemy of the State (15): Babe: Pig in the City (U): Home Alone 3 (PG): Mu-Ian (U); The Parent Trap (PG)

BOLTON

VIRGIN MEGAPLEX (0870-907 0714): Rush Hour (15); Small Soldiers (PG); Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate (NC); Pardeshi Babu (NC): Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18): Out of Sight (15): The Par-ent Trap (PG): The Negotlator (15): Babe: Pig in the City (U): The Prince of Egypt (U): Blade (18): Mulan (U): Antz (PG): Enemy of the State (15); The Mask of Zor-

WARNER VILLAGE (01204-669988); The Mask of Zorro (PG); Kudrat (NC); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); The Prince of Egypt (U); Blade (18); Babe: Pig in the City (U); Small Soldiers (PG); Mu-lan (U): Rush Hour (15); The Negotiator (15): The Parent Trap (PG): Enemy of the State (15): The Santa Clause (U): Out of Sight (15); Antz (PG)

LONSDALE CINEMAS (01228-514654): Enemy of the State (15); The ! Clause (U): The Prince of Egypt (U): Antz (PG): The Negotlator (15): The Parent Trap (PG): The Preacher's Wife (U): Mu-lan (U): Rush Hour (15): Babe: Pig in the City (U): The Mask of Zorro (PG): Parke (15)

ODEON (01244-343216); Out of Sight (15): Small Soldiers (PG): The Parent Trap (PG): Antz (PG): The Mask of Zor-ro (PG): Ever After (PG): Enemy of the State (15); Rush Hour (15); 5 Loathing in Las Vegas (18); Babe: Pig in the City (U); The Prince of Egypt (U)

VIRGIN (0541-555 158); Rush Hour (15): The Mask of Zorro (PG); Miracle on 34th Egypt (U): The Parent Trap (PG): Out of Sight (15): Enemy of the State (15): Babe: Pig in the City (U): Antz (PG) ABC (01382-226865); Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (18); The Prince of Egypt (U); Babe: Pig in the City (U); Antz (PG)

ODEON (08705-050007); The Mask of ODEON (08703-050007); the Mask of Zorro (PG); Enemy of the State (15); The Prince of Egypt (U): Small Soldiers (PG); The Parent Trap (PG); The Negotiator (15); Rush Hour (15); Out of Sight (15); Babe: Pig in the City (U): Blade (18); Mulan (U): Antz (PG)

STEPS THEATRE (01382-434037): Apocalypse Now (18); Dr Dolittle (PG)

EDINBURGH ABC FILM CENTRE (0131-228 1638): (15): Babe: Pig in the City (U): Antz (PG): The Parent Trap (PG); The Prince of Egypt (U)

ABC WESTER HAILES (0131-442 2200); Rush Hour (15); Ronin (15); The Mup-pet Christmas Carol (U); The Negotiator (15): Small Soldiers (PG): Blade (18): The Mask of Zorro (PG): Antz (PG): The Parent Trap (PG): Mulan (U): Enemy of the State (15); Out of Sight (15): Babe: Pig in the City (U): The Prince of

CAMEO (0131-228 4141): The Big Lebowski (18): The Truman Show (PG): Rush Hour (15): The Philadelphia Story (U): La Vie Revée des Anges (18) Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); The Soldier (Asian Film) (NC); My Name is Joe (15); The Boys (18); It's a Won-derful Life (U); II Postino (15);

Elizabeth (15) DOMINION (0131-447 4771): The Parent Trap (PG): Elizabeth (15): The Mask of Zorro (PG): Babe: Plg in the City (U): Antz (PG)

ODEON (08705-050007): The Parent Trap (PG); The Magic Sword: Quest for Camelot (U); The Prince of Egypt (U): Antz (PG); Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) (PG): The Negotiator (15); The Mask of Zorro (PG); Rush Hour (15); Mu-lan (U); Out of Sight (15); Babe: Pig in the City (U); Mr Magoo (PG); Enemy of the State (15)

UCI (0990-888990); The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) (18); Air Bud (U); The Mask of Zorro (PG); Rush Hour (15); Rolin (15); The Nask or Zorro (14); Rush room (15); Saving Private Ryan (15): Blade (18); Rolin (15); The Parent Trap (PG): Small Soldiers (PG); Antz (PG); The Negotiator (15); Jhoole Bole Kaussa Kaate (NC): tor (15); Indoore Bole Rauma Raate (NC.); There's Something About Mary (15); Out of Sight (15); The Prince of Egypt (U); Babe: Pig in the Clty (U); Mulan (U); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); my of the State (15)

ABC CLARKSTON ROAD (0141-637 2641): Enemy of the State (15): Antz (PG): The Parent Trap (PG): Babe: Fig in the City (U); Rush Hour (15): The Prince of Egypt (U)

1592): Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (18): Babe: Pig in the City (U): Small Sol-diers (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U): Antz (PG): Ronin (15): Out of Sight (15)

THE BOMBAY CINEMA (0141-419 0722); Wajood (PG) CALEDONIAN GROSVENOR (0141-339

A298): The Prince of Egypt (U); My Name is Joe (15); Shallow Grave (18); Enemy of the State (15); Babe: Pig in the City (U): Ever After (PG)

ODEON (08705-050007); Enemy of the State (15); The Prince of Egypt (U); The Parent Trap (PG); Blade (18); Mulan (U); The Negotiator (15); Rush Hour (15); Babe: Pig in the City (U); Out of Sight (15); My Name Is Joe (15); The Mask of Zorro (PG); Antz (PG)

SPRINGFIELD QUAY (08705-050007):
Babe: Pig in the City (U): Elizabeth (15):
Blade (18): Mulan (U): Enemy of the
State (15): Rush Hour (15): The Mask
of Zorro (PG): There's Something About
Mary (15): Out of Sight (15): The Parent Trap (PG): It's a Wonderful Life (U);
Antz (PG): My Name is Joe (15): Small
Soldiers (PG): The Negotiator (15): The
Prince of Egypt (U): Ronin (15) Soldiers (PG): The Negotiator (1 Prince of Egypt (U): Ronin (15)

VIRGIN FORGE PARKHEAD (0541virolin Porce Parent Itap (PG); The Mask of Zorro (PG); Small Soldiers (PG); My Name is Joe (15); Rush Hour (15); The Prince of Egypt (U); Mulan (U); Babe: Pig in the City (U); Enemy of the State (15); Antz (PG)

HULL
ODEON (08705-050007); Ronin (15):
Saving Private Ryan (15): The Mask of
Zorro (PG): Blade (18): Ever After
(PG): Mulan (U): Small Soldiers (PG): Barney's Great Adventure (U): Babe: Pig
in the City (U): Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Les Miserables (12); The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U); Out of Sight (15): Enemy of the State (15): The Borro

(PG): Dr Dolittle (PG); Rush Hour (15) UCI 8 ST ANDREWS QUAY (0990 888990); Mulan (U); The Prince of Egypt (U); Blade (18); Out of Sight (15); Babe: Pig in the City (U); The Parent Trap (PG): The Mask of Zorro (PG); Antz (PG); Doli Sajake Raktma (NC): Rush Hour (15): The Negotiator (15): Elizabeth (15): En-emy of the State (15): Small Soldiers (PG): Miracle on 34th Street (1994 Version) (U)

EDEN COURT THEATRE (01463-234274): Cube (15): Mulan (U); Eliza-beth (15): Cube (15)

CALEDONIAN CINEMAS (01463-233302): Enemy of the State (15): The Prince of Egypt (U): Dr Dolittle (PG): Babe: Pig in the City (U): Elizabeth (15): The Santa Clause (U); Antz (PG)

WARNER VILLAGE (01463-711147); Mulan (U): The Parent Trap (PG); Enemy of the State (15); The Prince of Egypt (U): Rush Hour (15); Antz (PG); The Santa Clause (U): The Mask of Zor-ro (PG): Small Soldiers (PG): Babe: Pig in the City (U): Blade (18): The Horse Whisperer (PG)

ABC (0113-245 2665); The Prince of Egypt (U); Babe: Pig in the City (U); Small Soldiers (PG); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Out of Sight (15); Abs (PG)

HYDE PARK (0113-275 2045); My Name is Joe (15); It's a Wonderful Life (U)

ODEON (08705-050007); Babe: Pig in the City (U); The Mask of Zorro (PG); Rush Hour (15); Enemy of the State (15); The Prince of Egypt (U)

WARNER VILLAGE (0113-279 9855); Lock, Stock & Tivo Smoking Barrels (18); The Prince of Egypt (U); Antz (PG); Mu-lan (U): The Mask of Zorro (PG); Out of Sight (15): Small Soldiers (PG); Rush Hour (15); The Parent Trap (PG); Enemy of the State (15); Fear and Loathing in Las Ve-gas (18); The Negotiator (15); Babe: Pig in the City (U); The Santa Clause (U); Blade (18): Velvet Goldmine (18); Ronin (15)

LEKCESTER

050007); Out of Sight (15); Saving Private Ryan (15); Antz (PG); Small Soldiers (PG); The Truman Show (PG); Blade (18); Rush Hour (15); The Parent Trap (PG); Mulan (U); Lost in Space (PG); The Negotiator (15): Babe: Pig in the City (U): Enemy of the State (15): Barney's Great Adventure (U): Dr Dolittle (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U): The Mask of Zorro (PG): There's Something About Mary (15): Ronin (15): Godzilla (PG)

WARNER VILLAGE (0116-282 7733); WARNER VILLAGE (0116-282 7733); Mulan (U): The Parent Trap (PG): Small Soldiers (PG): The Mask of Zorro (PG); Out of Sight (15): Rush Hour (15): Fear and Loathing In Las Vegas (18): The Prince of Egypt (U): Babe: Pig in the City (U): The Santa Clause (U): Enemy of the State (15): Blade (18): Ronin (15): Antz (PG) Antz (PG)

LIVERPOO! ABC ALLERTON (0151-724 3550); Babe: Pig in the City (U); Rush Hour (15)

ODEON (08705-050007): Enemy of the State (15); The Mask of Zorro (PG); Antz (PG): Babe: Pig in the City (U): The Prince of Egypt (U): The Parent Trap (PG); Ronin (15): Rush Hour (15) PLAZA (0151-474 4076); Les Miserables (12); Firelight (15); Babe: Pig in the City (U); Enemy of the State (15); The Prince of Egypt (U): The Parent Trap (PG)

VIRGIN (0541-555146); The Prince of lan (U): Babe: Pig in the City (U): Mu-lan (U): Enemy of the State (15): Antz (PG): The Parent Trap (PG): Small Sol-diers (PG): Rush Hour (t of Sight (15): The Mask of Zorro (PG): The Negotiator (15)

WOOLTON PICTURE HOUSE (0151-428 1919): The Prince of Egypt (U)

ARENA SEVEN CINEMAS (0161-839 0700); Antz (PG); Rush Hour (15); The Mask of Zorro (PG); The Prince of Egypt (U); Blade (18); Babe: Pig in the City (U); The Parent Trap (PG); Small Soldiers (PG); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking arrels (18): Fear and Loathing in Las

Vegas (18); Mulan (U) CINECITY (0161-445 8181); Enemy of the State (15); Out of Sight (15); The Parent Trap (PG); Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate (NC):

Antz (PG); The Mask of Zorro (PG) ODEON (08705-050007); Rush Hour (15); Blade (18); The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U): The Negotiator (15); Antz (PG); The Exordst (25th Anniversary Rerelease) (18); Enemy of the State (15); Mulan (U): Out of Sight (15); Babe: Pig in the City (U): The Mask of Zorro (PG)

UCI TRAFFORD CENTRE (0870-603 4567); Out of Sight (15); Wajood (PG); The Adventures of Robin Hood (U); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18): En-emy of the State (15): The Mask of Zor-ro (PG): Small Soldiers (PG): Mulan (U): Kudrat (NC): Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate (NC): Snake Eyes (15): Rush Hour (15): Antz (PG): Babe: Pig in the City (U): Sav-ing Private Ryan (15): There's Something About Mary (15): The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) (18); Elizabeth (15); The Negotiator (15); Blade (18); The Parent Trap (PG); The Prince of Egypt (U); Kuch Kuch Hota Hai (PG); Ronin (15); Dil To Pagal Hai (PG)

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE ODEON (08705-050007); Out of Sight (15); Rush Hour (15); Enemy of the State(15); The Parent Trap (PG); The Mask of Zorro (PG); Babe; Pig in the City (U); The Prince of Egypt (U)

WARNER VILLAGE (0191-2210222); The Santa Clause (U): Antz (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U): Enemy of the State (15): Rush Hour (15): Air Bud (U): Mulan (U): Small Soldiers (PG): Babe: Pig In the City (U): Blade (18); Out of Sigh (15): The Mask of Zorro (PG): The Parent Trap (PG); Ronin (15)

NOTTINGHAM ABC (0115-947 5260); Out of Sight (15); The Prince of Egypt (U); Small Soldiers (PG); Antz (PG); Babe: Pig in the City (U);

ODEON (08705-050007); Enemy of the

State (15): Blade (18): There's Something About Mary (15): Rush Hour (15); Babe: Pig in the City (U): The Mask of Zorro (PG): The Parent Trap (PG); The Prince of Empt (II) Prince of Egypt (U) SAVOY (0115-947 5812); The Mask of Zorro (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U): The Parent Trap (PG): Enemy of the State (15); Antz (PG): Babe: Pig in the City (U): Out of Sight (15); Molan (U): Rush Hour

ROCHDALE
ABC (01705-719933); The Parent Trap
(PG); The Muppet Christmas Carol (U);
Enemy of the State (15); Ronin (15);
Rush Hour (15); Dr Dolltrie (PG); Anta
(PG); Babe: Pig in the City (U); Mulan
(U); Out of Sight (15); The Negotiator
(15); Miracle on 34th Street (1994 Version)
(U); Small Soldlers (PG); The
Prince of Egypt (U); It's a Wonderful Life
(U); The Mask of Zorro (PG); Blade (18)

VIRGIN (0541-555157); The Mask of Zorro (PG): Antz (PG): Rush Hour (15); The Muppet Christmas Carol (U): Out of Sight (15): Blade (18): Babe: Pig in the City (U): Mulan (U): Enemy of the State (15): The Prince of Egypt (U): The Parent Trap (PG)

ODEON (08705-050007); Babe: Pig in the City (U); Rush Hour (15); The Parent the City (U): Rush Hour (15); The Parent Trap (PG): Enemy of the State (15): 101 Dalmadans (U): Antz (PG): Ronin (15): Mu-lan (U): Blade (18): Elizabeth (15): Small Soldiers (PG): Out of Sight (15): Lock, Stock & Tiwo Smoking Barrels (18): The Prince of Egypt (U): The Truman Show (PG): The Mask of Zorro (PG) UCI CRYSTAL PEAKS 10 (0990-838990);

There's Something About Mary (15):
Antz (PG): Blade (18): Mendhi (PG): Mulan (U): Enemy of the State (15): The
Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) (18): Jingle All the Way (PG); Dr Dollttle (PG): Saving Private Ryan (15): Babe: Pig in the City (U): The Parent Trap (PG): The Mask of Zorro (PG); Rush Hour (15); The Negotiator (15); Small Soldiers (PG); The Prince of Egypt (U): Out of Sight (15) VIRGIN (Dom Valley) (0114-242 1237): The Truman Show (PG): Saving Private Ryan (15): Mehndi (PG): Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Blade (18); Ronin (15); The Mask of Zorro (PG);

There's Something About Mary (15): Out of Sight (15); Small Soldiers (PG); The Negotiator (15); The Prince of Egypt (U): Babe: Pig In the City (U): The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) (18): Dead Man's Curve (15): The Parent Trap (PG); Tim Burton's The Nightmare Be Christmas (PG): Enemy of the State (15): Antz (PG); The Land Girls (12): Playing God (18); Mulan (U); Rush Hour (15)

WARNER VILLAGE (0114-256 9222); Small Soldiers (PG): Blade (18): Antz (PG); Babe: Pig in the City (U); The Par-ent Trap (PG): Enemy of the State (15); The Negotiator (15): The Prince of Egypt (U); Rush Hour (15): Out of Sight (15): The Santa Clause (U): The Mask of Zor-re (PG); Median (II) ro (PG); Mulan (U)

STOKE-ON-TRENT ABC (01782-212320): The Prince of Egypt (U): The Parent Trap (PG): Antz (PG): Babe: Pig in the City (U): Enemy of the State (15); Rush Hour (15)

FILM THEATRE (01782-411188); The

Governess (15)

Mask of Zorro (PG)

Out of Sight (15)

ODEON (08705-050007); Antz (PG): Small Soldiers (PG): There's Something About Mary (15): Rush Hour (15): Ronin (15): Enemy of the State (15): Mulan (U): Blade (18): Babe: Pig in the City (U): Out of Sight (15): The Prince of Egypt (U): The Parent Trap (PG): The Mark of Form (PG)

UCI 10 (0990-888990); Babe: Pig in the City (U); Elizabeth (15); Mulan (U): Antz (PG): There's Something About Mary (15); The Parent Trap (PG); Jingle All the Way (PG); Doll Sajake Rakima (NC): Rush Hour (15); The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) (18): Enemy of the State (15); The Prince of Egypt (U): Blade (18): Our of State (15):

WAREFIELD
CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (01924332230): The Mask of Zorro (PG): Out of Sight (15); Antz (PG); Ronin (15): North by Northwest (PG): Rush Hour (15): Bad Boy Bubby (18); Small Soldiers (PG); The Santa Cause (U): Kudrat (NC): The Negotiator (15): Dr Dolittle (PG): Babe: Pig in the City (U): There's Something About Mary (15): The Prince of Egypt (U): The Parent Trap (PG): Mulan (U): Enemy of the State (15): Wajood (PG): Blade (18): Lost in Space (PG) WAKEFIELD

VIRGIN (0541-555150): The Parent Trap (PG): The Negotiator (15): Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas (PG): Enemy of the State (15): Blade (18): The Mask of Zorro (PG): Antz (PG): Small Soldlers (PG): There's Something About Mary (15): Mulan (U): Out of Sight (15): The Prince of Egypt (U): Babe: Pig in the City (U): Rush Hour (15)

WOODHALL SPA KINEMA IN THE WOODS (01526-352166); Out of Sight (15); The Prince of Egypt (U); Babe: Pig in the City (U)

REGAL (01909-482896): Elizabeth (15): Saving Private Ryan (15): Mulan (U)

ODEON (08705-050007); Barney's Great Adventure (U); Out of Sight (15): Small Soldiers (PG): Good Burger (PG); Blade (18): The Parent Trap (PG); Paulle (U): Dr Dollittle (PG): Godzilla (PG):

Rush Hour (15): Enemy of the State (15): The Prince of Egypt (U): MouseHunt (PG): The Magic Sword: Quest for Camelot (U): Babe: Pig in the City (U): The Mask of Zorro (PG): The Land Girls (13)

Farinelli (15): A Soldler's Daughter Nev-er Cries (15); Sixth Happiness (NC) ODEON (08705-050007): Miracle o 34th Street (1994 Version) (U): Rush Hour (15): The Prince of Egypt (U): Babe:

WARNER VILLAGE (01904-691094): The Mask of Zorro (PG): It's a Wonderful Life (U); Rush Hour (15): The Prince of Egypt (U): Babe: Pig in the City (U); Ronin (15): Mulan (U); The Parent Trap (PG): Antz (PG); Out of Sight (15): Lock. Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Elizabeth (15); The Santa Clause (U); Small Soldiers (PG)

CINEMA

RELEAST QUEEN'S FILM THEATRE (01232-244857) Kuch Kuch Hota Hai (PG) Sat

NMPFT (PICTUREVILLE) (01274-732277) Mulan (U) Sat 11am Dr Zhiva-go (PG) Sat 2pm On Connait ta Chanson (PG) Sat 5.45pm; also Sun 5pm, Mon 2.45pm, Tue 4.30pm, Wed 7.30pm Divorcing Jack (15) Sat 8.15pm Way Out West & The Music Box (U) Sun 3.15pm; also Mon 1pm The Bollywood Movie (NC) Sun 7.30pm Roald Dahl's

WARWICK ARTS CENTRE (01203-9pm The Wings of the Dove (15) Sat 6.30pm The Plano (15) Sun 4pm; also

METRO (01332-347765) Victory (15) Sat, Tue 6.30pm; also Sun 8.15pm, Wed 8.45pm A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries (15) Sat 8.45pm; also Sun 6pm Far-

IRISH FILM CENTRE (00 353 1-679

FILMHOUSE (0131-228 2688) Henry Fool (18) Sat, Tue, Wed 2pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm; also Sun 8.30pm, Mon 5.40pm, 8.30pm Elizabeth (15) Sat. Mon 2.30pm, 6.10pm; also Sun 6.10pm. Tue. Wed 6.10pm The Ride (NC) Sat 3.30pm; Sun 6pm Dancing at Lughnasa (PG) Sat. Wed 6pm, 8.45pm; also Sun. Tue 3.30pm. 8.45cm Mon 8.45pm The Governess (15) Sat 8.35pm; also Sun 1.30pm, 8.35pm The Private Life of Henry VIII (NC) Sun 3pm. 6.15pm; also Mon 3pm Gadjo Dilo (15) Mon 3.30pm, 6.15pm; Gadjo Dilo (15) Mon 3.30pm, 6.15pm; also Tile 6.15pm, Wed 3.30pm, 6.15pm; also Tile 6.15pm, Wed 3.30pm The Truman Show (PG) Mon-Wed 8.35pm Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (U) Tile. Wed 2.30pm

THE LUMIERE (0131-247 4219) Shal-

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** ** A SE FILM THEATRE (0141-332 8128) Chitry Chitty Bang Bang (U) Sat-Mon 2pm It's a Wonderful Life (U) Sat. Sun 3pm, 6pm; also Mon 2.15pm, Tue 2.15pm, 6pm, Wed, Thur 1.30pm, 7.15pm Heary Fool [18] Sat-Mon 5pm, 8pm; also Tue 2pm, 5pm. 8pm. Wed, Thur 1pm, 4pm, 7pm Dancing at Lughnasa (PG) Sat-Tue 8.45pm; also Wed, Thur 5pm The Wicker Man (19) Mon 5.45pm;

THE DUKES PLAYHOUSE (01524-66645) Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Bar-reis (18) Sun 8pm; also Mon 6.15pm The, Land Girls (12) Mon 8.30pm; also Tul 6.15pm Mrs Brown (PG) Tue 8.30pm; Brassed Off (15) Wed 6.15pm + The Full Monte 8.30pm

PHOENIX ARTS (0116-255 4854) Tintin And the Mystery of Shark Island (NC) Sat 2.30pm Scrooge (NC) Sat 6pm There's Something About Mary (15) Sat 8.30pm The X-Files (15) Tue 6.05pm:

LIVERPOOL
THE PHILHARMONIC HALL (0151-709 3789) Fame (U) Thur 2pm High Society (U) Thur 7.30pm

MANCHESTER CORNERHOUSE (0161-200 1500) Girls Town (15) Sat 1.55pm, 6.25pm; also Sun 4.10pm, 8.40pm Elizabeth (15) Sat, Sun, Tue, Wed 2.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm; also Mon 5.45pm, 8.20pm It's a Wonderful Ufe (U) Sat, Sun, Tue, Wed 2.10pm, 5.25pm, 8.05pm; also Mon 5.25pm,

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
TYNESIDE CINEMA (0191-232 8289)
La Grande Illusion (U) Sat. Mon 3.15pm, 8.30pm; also Sun 3.20pm, 8.15pm, Tue 3.30pm, 8.30pm, Wed 5.45pm It's a Wonderful Life (U) Sat. Mon 3.30pm, 8pm; also Sun 5.40pm, Tue 6pm. Wed 3pm. 8pm Henry Fool (18) Sat-Tue 5.45pm; also Wed 3.15pm, 8.30pm Left Luggage (PG) Sat. Mon, Wed 6pm; also Sun 1pm, 8.30pm. Tue 3.45pm, 8.40pm

SHEFFIELD
THE SHOWROOM (0114-275 7727) My
Name is Joe (15) Sat, Mon, Wed 1.50pm,
6pm; also Sun 6.40pm, Tue 4pm, 8.45pm
Mulan (U) Sat, Sun, Tue, Wed 2pm, 4pm;
also Mon 2pm Tim Burton's the Nightmare Before Christmas (PG) Sat, Sun
2pm Elizabeth (15) Sat 3.20pm; also
Sun 4.30pm, 8.15pm, Mon, Wed 3.20pm,
8.20pm, Tue 1.50pm, 6.10pm It's a
Wonderful Life (U) Sat, Mon, Wed 6pm;
also Sun 2.15pm, 7.45pm, Tue 2.15pm,
8.15pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking
Barrels (18) Sat, Mon, Wed 2.15pm,
8.40pm; also Sun 5.30pm, Tue 6pm La
Vie Revée des Anges (18) Sat 3.50pm,
6.10pm; also Sun 3.30pm, 5.40pm,
8pm, Mon 2.30pm, 5.50pm, Tue, Wed
2.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Dancing at
Lughnasa (PG) Sat, Tue, Wed 6.45pm,
8.50pm; also Sun 6.15pm, 8.20pm, Mon
5.30pm Mr Smith Goes to Washington
(PG) Sun 2pm; also Mon 8.15pm Brassed
Off (15) Mon 7.30pm SHEFFLELD

YORK CITY SCREEN (01904-612940);

Pig in the City (U): Enemy of the State

(15); The Mask of Zorro (PG); Antz (PG); The Parent Trap (PG)

REPERTORY

7pm: also Sun 3.30pm, 7pm BRADFORD

Matilda (PG) Tue 2.30pm; also Wed 1pm Titanic (12) Wed 3pm

Mon 9pm Mrs Brown (PG) Sun 7.30pm; also Mon 6.30pm The Pull Monty (15) Tue 6.30pm; also Wed 9pm Regenera-tion (15) Tue 9pm; also Wed 6.30pm

go (18) Tue 8.45pm; also Wed 6.30pm

IRISH FILM CENTRE (00 353 1-679 3477/5744) The Fountainhead (PG) Sat, Sun 2.10pm, 6.30pm GoodFellas (18) Sat, Sun 3pm Year of the Horse (15) Sat, Sun 4.20pm, 8.40pm On Connait Ia Chanson (PG) Sat, Sun 6.10pm, 8.30pm; also Mon-Tue 3pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Blade Runner - The Director's Cut (15) Tue, Wed 6.30pm

low Grave (18) Sat 5.30pm Trainspot-ting (18) Sat 8.30pm Paws (PG) Sun 12.30pm 101 Dalmatians (U) Sun 3pm An American in Paris (U) Sun 5.30pm A Life Less Ordinary (15) Sun 8.30pm

FILM THEATRE (0141-332 8128) Chit-

er Man (18) Mon 5.45pm

SCREEN (01472-323333) Miracle on 34th Street (1994 Version) (U) Sat 2pm There's Something About Mary (15) Sat 7-30-3-4 (1994 Version) 7.30pm Ever After (PG) Mon-Wed 7.30pm

LEKESTER

also Wed 8.30pm Majorettes in Space: Five Gay Tales from France (18) Tue 8.45pm; also Wed 6.05pm

3.25pm. 6.05pm; also Won 5.25pm, 8.05pm I Want You (18) Sat 4.10pm, 8.40pm; also Sun 1.55pm, 6.25pm, Mon 6.25pm. 8.40pm. Tue, Wed 1.55pm. 4.10pm, 6.25pm, 8.40pm NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

NOTTINGHAM
BROADWAY CINEMA (0115-952 6611)
The Boy Who Stopped Talking (NC) Sat.
3.30pm Dancing at Lughnasa (PG) Sat.
Sun 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.15pm; also Mon-Wed
6pm, 8.15pm Character (15) Sat. Wed
6pm, 8.30pm; also Sun, Tue 6pm. Mon
8.30pm Lou Reed: Rock and Roll
Heart (NC) Sun 8.30pm Hands (aka
Paims) (PG) Mon 6pm; also Tue 8.30pm

ABERDEEN

MUSIC

POP. JAZZ, FOLK ETC

THE SUPERNATURALS Scottish

post Britpop outfit, strong on the songwriting front Lernon Tree West North Street (01224-642230) 21

UB40 Birmingham reggae-pop vet-erans tour a new album of Jamaican

classics, Labour Of Love III. National

Exhibition Centre (0121-780 4133) 21 Dec. 8pm, £17-£19.50.

Dec. 8.30pm, £4.50-£9.

BIRMINGHAM

THEATRE COUNTRYWIDE

REVIEW

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ABERDEEN HIS MAJESTY'S Peter Pan Sonia stars in J M Barrie's delightful tale. Tue-Thu 7pm, mats Tue-Thur 1,45pm, ends 3 Jan. £10-£14, available, Rosemount Viaduct 11224-6411221

BIRMINGHAM ALEXANDRA THEATRE A Tale Of Two Cities Paul Nicholas stars in this new musical adaptation. Mon-Sar 7.30pm, mats Wed, Thur & Sat 2.30pm, no perfs 24 & 25 Dec, ends 16 Jan. £7-£24.50. Suffolk Street

BIRMINGHAM REP A Christmas Carol Michael Bogdanov directs a new adaptation of Charles Dicken's novel, 22-23 Dec. 7.15pm, mars 21 & 22 Dec. 10.30am, 21, 23-24 Dec. 2.30pm, £7.25-£19, concs available. Broad Street (0121-236 4455)

HIPPODROME Cinderella Danny La Rue and Brian Conley star in the popular family favourite. 23 Dec. 2:30pm & 7.15pm. 24 Dec.2pm & 6.30pm. 27 Dec. 5.15pm. ends 20 able, Hurst Street (0121-622 7486)

BLACKPOOL GRAND THEATRE Aladdin Magical Jamily panto starring Wayne Sleep.
Mon-Wed, 7pm, mats Mon-Thur
2pm, ends 10 Jan. £6-£13.50,
cones available. Church Street [01253-290190]

COVENTRY BELGRADE THEATRE Sleeping Beauty Huge family panto with and a magical time machine. Mon-Wed, 7pm, mats Mon-Thur 2.30pm, ends 23 Jan. E8-£14-50, concs available. Corporation Street (01203-553055)

WARWICK ARTS CENTRE Sinbad Join Sinbad and Princess Jasmine on an exciting and romantic voyage, 21-22 Dec, 5.30pm, 23 Dec, 7.30pm, mats 23 Dec. 2 30pm, 21-22 Dec. 1 30pm, ends 2 Jan. £8-£10, concs available. Gibbet Hill Road (01203-

DUNDEE REPERTORY THEATRE The Jungle Book A charming adaptation of Kipling's tale about Mowgli and his jungle friends. Mon-Wed, 7 15pm. 24 Dec. 7pm, mats 22-24, 2.30pm, ends 9 Jan. £9-£10.25, concs available. Tay Square (01382-223530)

EDINBURGH KING'S THEATRE The Adventures Of Aladdin The magical experience of panto starring David Rintoul, Allan Stewart and Gerard Kelly. 22-23 Dec. 7pm, 24 Dec. 6.30pm, mats Tue-Thur 2pm, ends 17 Jan. £7.50-£14.50, concs available. £ven Street (0131-529 6000)

ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE The Snow Queen Stuart Paterson's charming adaptation of Anderson's fairytale. Mon-Thur 2.30pm & 7pm, ends 9 Jan. £4-£15, concs available Grindlay Street (0131-229 9697)

THEATRE WORKSHOP II Bellissimo Silenzio A thrilling fairytale full of mystery and adventure. Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, mats Mon-Thur 2.30cm, ends 24 Dec. £6.50, concs £4, family ticket £18. Hamilton Place (0131-226 5425)

CITIZENS THEATRE Merlin The Magnificent Classic Arthurian legend wizardry and evil forces combine in an enchanting new-Christmas show. 21 & 22 Dec. 10am & 2pm, 23 Dec, 2pm & 7pm. 24 Dec. 2pm & 5pm, ends 26 Dec. £2.50-£10, concs available Gorbals Street (0141-429 0072)

KING'S THEATRE Sleeping Beau-cy Elaine C Smith stars in this magical fairytale production. 24 Dec. 2pm, Mon-Wed. 1pm, ends 16 Jan. £2.50-£15. concs available. Bath Street (0141-287 5511)

PAVILION THEATRE Pinocchio The Krankies and Jimmy Cricket deliv er a magical panto treat. Mon-Thur 7.30pm, 23 & 24 Dec. 1.30pm, ends 23 Jan. £6-£9.50, concs available. Renfield Street (0141-332 1846)

HALIFAX VICTORIA THEATRE Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs Familt pantomime with stars from TV's Gladiators. Emmerdale and Last of The Summer Wine. Mon-Wed. 7pm. 24 Dec. 5pm, mats Mon-Wed. 2pm, 24 Dec. 1pm, ends 2 Jan. £5.95-£10.50, concs available. Wards End (01422-351158)

HULL NEW THEATRE Aladdin On The Buses Blakey stars with Kathy Staff. Mon-Wed. 7pm, mats Tue-Thur 2pm, ends 23 Jan £9,50-£13,50, concs available. Kingston Square (01482-226655)

GRAND THEATRE Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Tim Rice and Andrew Linya Webber's musical version of the Bible story, 23 Dec, 7.30pm, 26 Dec, 8pm, mats 23 Dec, 2.30pm, 24 Dec, 12noon & 3pm, ends 3 Jan, £8.50-£22. New Briggate (0113-222 6222)

CIVIC THEATRE Robinson Crusoe Popular panto with the usual ingre-dients. 22-23 Dec. 2pm & 7pm, 20 & 24 Dec. 3pm, ends 9 Jan. £6-7, child £5-£6. Cookndge Street (0113-2476962/2455505)

WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE: COURTYARD THEATRE Present ughter Ian McKellen stars in Noel Coward's witty comedy about theatrical life. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. mat 23 Dec, phone for details not 25 Dec, 2.30pm, ends 23 Jan. £8-£17, concs £5.50-£14.50. The Nutcracker Hoffman's tale of the Sugar Plum Fairy. 21, 22, 24 Dec. 10am & 1.30pm. ends 23 Jan. 55.50-£17. Quarry Hill Mount

WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE: **QUARRY THEATRE Martin Guerre** Boubil and Schonberg's musical love story. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thur & Sat 2pm, not 25 Dec, ends 13 Feb. £8-£21. Quarry Hill Mount (0113-213 77001

LIVERPOOL **EVERYMAN THEATRE Jumpin' Jack** Flash Rock 'n' roll panto, Mon-Wed. 2.30pm & 7.30pm, 24 Dec. 10.30am, ends 30 Jan. £5.95-£11.95. Hope Street (0151-709 4776)

NEPTUNE THEATRE Peter Pan Former Gladiator Eunice flies in to save the Lost Boys from the scheming Captain Hook, 22-23 Dec. 2pm & 7pm, ends 10 Jan. £7-£10, concs £5-£8. Hanover Street (0151-709 7844)

LLANDUDNO

NORTH WALES THEATRE The Adventures Of Peter Pan Swash-buckling entertainment starring Glen Murphy from London's Burning as Captain Hook, Mon-Wed, 7.15pm. Mon-Thur 2.15pm, ends 3 Jan. £7.50-£12.50, concs available. Promenade (01492-872000)

MANCHESTER FORUM THEATRE WYTHENSHAWE The Snow Queen Imaginative adap-tation of Hans Christian Andersen's fairytale: 21-23 Dec. 2.30pm & 7pm, ends 2 Jan. £8-£14, concs £6-£11. Civic Centre (0161-437 9663)

LIBRARY THEATRE Puss in Boots Adventure story about a young man who leaves home in seaarch of fame and fortune accompanied by his exceptionally clever cat Puss. Mon-Wed. 7pm, mats 21-23 Dec. 2.30pm, ends 16 Jan. £8-£15. concs available. Central Library, St Peter's Square (0161-236 7110)

OPERA HOUSE Offver! Gary Wilmot stars in Lionel Bart's ever popular musical which follows the fortunes of an orphan in Victorian Landon. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat 2.30pm, ends 30 Jan. £10-£29. Quay Street (0161-242 2503)

PALACE THEATRE Cinderella Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Day and Ruth Madoc. Mon-Wed, 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 24 Jan. £7.50-£15.50, concs available 242 2525) cs available. Oxford Street (0161-

ROYAL EXCHANGE THEATRE Himdie Wakes The Royal Exchange re-opens with the production which was cut short by the bomb blast in 1996. Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm (no perts 24 & 25 Dec), mat 23 Dec. 2.30pm, ends 9 Jan. £7-£23, concs ole. St Anne's Square (0161-833 9833)

CLWYD THEATR CYMRU Aladdin The wok 'n' roll panto. Mon-Thur 7.30pm, mats 22. 24 Dec, ends 30 Jan. £10-£15. concs available. Civic Centre (01352-755114)

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NEWCASTLE PLAYHOUSE The Princess And The Goblin The gobins attempt to take over the world in this magical Christmas show. Mon-Wed. 7pm. mats Mon-Thur 2pm. ends 9 Jan. £10.75-£12.75. concs available. Barras Bridge (0191-

THEATRE ROYAL Cinderella Popular pantomime with stars from TV's Coronation Street and Eastenders. Mon-Thur 7pm, mats Mon-Thur 2pm, ends 23 Jan. £5-£15, concs available. Grey Street (0191-232

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME NEW VICTORIA THEATRE A Christmas Carol David Holman's adaptation of Charles Dickens' tale of greed and avarice in the dark streets of Victorian London. 21-23, 7.30pm, mats Mon-Thur 2pm ends 9 Jan. £6.50-£12.50, concs available.

NOTTINGHAM NOTTINGHAM PLAYHOUSE Jack And The Beanstalk Kenneth Alan Taylor writes and directs his fifteenth consecutive pantomime. Mon-Thur 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 24 Jan. £9-£12. child £5-£8. East Circus Street (0115-941 9419)

EXHIBITIONS

BIRMINGHAM other family favourites. Mon-Thur 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 9 Jan. £4.50-£13, concs available. High

CRUCIBLE THEATRE South Pacific Banish the winter blues with a visit to this Rodgers and Hammerstein Chamberlain Square (0121-303 2834) musical. Mon-Wed, 7.30pm. mats Tue-Thur 2 30pm, ends 23 Jan. £11-£15, concs available. Norfolk Street (0114-276 9922)

LYCEUM THEATRE tack And The Beanstalk Gladiator Vogue stars. Mon-Wed. 7pm. Mon-Thur 2pm. ends 17 Jan. £6.50-£14.50. Norfolk Street (0114-276 9922)

STOKE-ON-TRENT THEATRE ROYAL, HANLEY The Adventures Of Robin Hood Spectacular comedy adventure starring Little and Large. Dec 21-24, 7.15pm, mars 20-24 Dec, 2pm, edns 17 Jan. £7.50-£14, concs available. Pall Mail (01782-207777)

PERTH THEATRE Aladdin And His

Wonderful Lamp With Wishee

Washer and Widow Twankee and the

Street (01738-621031)

SHEFFIELD

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe Adrian Noble directs Adrian Mitchell's adaptation of the CS Lewis Narnia classic. In rep. 23 Dec. 2.30pm, ends 27 Feb. £5-£30. The Winter's Tale Seasonal tale of obsessive jealousy directed by Gregory Doran, in rep. 21 & 22 Dec. 7.30pm. ends 26 Feb. £7-£30. Waterside (01789-295623)

SWAN THEATRE A Month In The Country Brian Friel's adaptation of Turgenev's portrait of all-consuming sexual desire. In rep, Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, ends 20 Feb. £5-£30. Waterside (01789-295623)

GRAND OPERA HOUSE Jack And The Beanstalk Fun-filled family panto with TV stars from Gladiotors and Home And Away. Mon-Wed. 7.30pm, mats Mon-Thur 2.30pm, ends 10 Jan. £8-£12, concs available Cumberland Street (01904-671818)

THEATRE ROYAL Beauty And The Beast Berwick Kaler stars in York's fabulous feast of fun. 24 Dec. 2pm. Mon-Wed, 2.30pm & 7.30pm, 24 Dec. 4pm, 4pm, 5.30pm, ends 30 Jan. £7.50-£14.75, concs available. St. Leonards Place (01904-623568)

THEATRE WEST END

CINDERELLA Angela Carter's version of this fairytale is staged by the acclaimed Improbable Theatre. Lyric Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) & Hammersmith. Phone for times, ends 9 Jan, £5-£18.

JESUS, MY BOY Tom Conti stars in Fri 8pm, Sat 5pm & 8pm, [1] 3pm & 5pm, £5.50-£18.50.

THE SNOWMAN Award-winning production of Raymond Briggs' contemporary classic about a young boy who betirends a sonowman. Sadler's Wells At The Peacock Portugal Street, WC2 (0171-863 8222)

• Temple, Phone for times, ends 30 Jan. £7.50-£32.50.

CLASSICAL

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY Burne-Jones Important work by Sir Edward Burne-Jones. Mon-Thur, Sat 10am-5pm, Fri 10.30am-5pm, Sun 12.30pm-5pm (phone for Christmas opening), ends 17 Jan. £5, £3.50 concs, £14 family.

CITY ART CENTRE Alice Maher and Tim Davies Leading artists Maher and Davies exhibit unusual new work. Mon-Sat 10am-Spm. Sun 12noon-Spm (phone for Christmas opening), ends 4 Jan, free Market Street (0131-529 3993)

GLASGOW KELVINGROVE MUSEUM & ART GALLERY Travelling Companions: Monet and Seurat The third exhibition in the series focusses on two French paintings. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 11am-5pm, ends 31 Jan, free. Kelvingrove (0141-287 2700)

FERENS ART GALLERY Helen Chadwick Wide range of work by the late photographer and artist. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 1.30pm-4.30pm (phone for Christmas opening), ends 17 Jan E1, child under 13 & Hull residents free. Queen Victoria Square (01482-613902)

LEEDS HENRY MOORE INSTITUTE Les Cambodgiennes: Auguste Rodin Drawings made during the Royal Cambodian dance company's tour to France in 1906. Mon-Sun 10am-5.30pm, Wed 10am-9pm (phone for Christmas opening), ends 3 Jan, free The Headrow (0113-234 3158)

LIVERPOOL TATE GALLERY LIVERPOOL A Mythology: Salvador Dali Major works from the Florido Dali museum. Tue-Sun & Bank Hols 10am-opm (phone for Christmas opening), ends 31 Jan. £5, concs £2 50. Al-bert Dock (0151-709 3223)

MANCHESTER WHITWORTH ART GALLERY Chris Offil Challenging paintings inspired by the black tradition. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm. Sun 2pm-5pm (phone for Christmas opening), ends 24 Jan.

free University of Manchester, Ox-ford Road (0161-275 7450) SHEFFIELD GRAVES ART GALLERY Double Sames: Sophie Calle Retrospective

of Calle's work, includes a new work made with novelist Paul Auster. In two venues. Tue-Sat 10am-5pm (phone for Christmas opening), ends 30 Jan. free. Surrey Street (0114-273 5158)

FAIRFAX HOUSE Heritage Re-gained Pieces of silver from the Gilbert Collection. Mon-Thur 11am-5pm, Sat 1 Tam-5pm, Sun 1.30pm-5pm (phone for Christmas oper Castlegate (01904-655543) YORK CITY ART GALLERY Venice

Through Canaletto's Eyes Twenty-three paintings and drawings by the Venetian artist. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2,30pm-5pm (closed Dec 25), ends 3 Jan, free. Exhibition Square (01904-551861)

BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY HALL CBSO/Robertson Messiaen's massive ten-move-ment Turangalila Symphony. 22 Dec. 7.30pm. £6-£31. City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Christmas Concerts Conductor Simon Halsey and narrator

Willard White. 19, 21 & 23 Dec. 7.30pm, £6-£31. esiey Garrett's Christmas Collection Accompanied by the BBC Concert Orchestra conducted by Peter Robinson, 20 Dec. Spm. £10-£30. Broad Street (0121-212 3333)

EDINBURGH THE OUEEN'S HALL Cappella Nova/Carols By Candlelight Cele-brate the magic of Christmas with carols. 19 Dec. 7.30pm. £4-£12. John Currie Singers And Orchestra Handel's Messiah. 20 Dec. 7.30pm. £8. concs £6. students &

children £4.50. Tears Of the Angels By Candlelight BT Scottish Ensemble with John Tavener's Deport In Peace. 22 Dec. 7.45pm. E9, concs E5. Clerk Street (0131-668 2019/cc 667 7776)

MANCHESTER MANCHESTER
BRIDGEWATER HALL Carol Concerts The Halle is conducted by Brian Kay. 19 Dec., 7.30pm & 20 Dec., 3pm & 7.30pm. £6-£28.
Halifax Choral Society/Pryce-Jones With Manchester Concert Orchestra in Handel's Messiah. 22 Dec., 7.30pm. £12.50-£27.50. Lower Mockey Street (#0.151.402.2000)

ST MICHAEL-LE-BELFREY York-Shire Bach Choir & Baroque Soloists/Seymour Music for Christ-mas by JS Bach. 19 Dec. 7 30pm.

£10-£13. (01904-658338) YORK MINSTER Psalmody/The Parley of Instruments Christmas music from English parish churches 1740-1830. 20 Dec. 7.30pm, £12, concs £10 Deansgate (01904-671818)

OPERA

GLASGOW THEATRE ROYAL Hansel And Gre-

tel Mark Tinkler directs Scottish Opera's production of Humperdinck's musical fairytale. 19, 22 & 23 Dec. 7.15pm. £3.50-£45.50, concs available. Hope Street (0141-332 9000) I FEDS

GRAND THEATRE Carmen Phyllida Lloyd's vibrant production of Bizet's evergreen classic for Opera North. 19 Dec, 6pm. 21 Dec, 7.15pm. £6-£42. New Briggate (0113-222 6222)

DANCE

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL THEATRE Scottish Ballet: Cinderella John Fraser's version of the classic fairytale. 21. 22, 23 & 24 Dec., 7.30pm. 22-24 Dec. 2.30pm. £4.50-£30, concs available.

2.30pm. £4.50-£30, concs available.

Scottish Baller: La Fille Mal Gardee

Ashton's spirited ballet featuring

Yurie Shinohara, 19 Dec, 2.30pm &

7.30pm. £4.50-£30, concs available.

LITERATURE

GLASGOW

WOMEN'S PLAYWRITING WORK-SHOP Learn to write for the theatre. Crawfurd Theatre Southbrae Drive (0141-950 3437/3438) 21 Dec.

7pm-9pm, £48 for 16 classes.

WAYS INTO WRITING (OVER 185) A supportive class aimed at devel-oping writing styles and approaches. Manor House Art Gallery and Museum Castle Yard (01943-600066) Tue 10.30am-1pm, ends 9 Feb, £82 for course, concs.

STIRLING ADAM MCNAUGHTON The poet and singer/somgwriter talks about Glasgow singing traditions. Stirling Smith Art Gallery And Museum rron Road (01786-471917)

COMEDY

RIRMINGHAM THE GLEE CLUB Perrier nor Peter Kay, Junior Simpson,

reter Kay, Jumor Simpson, McCarthy, Noel Britten. 15 8pm. E12. Xmas Party Night with Perric. inee Junior Simpson, Kevin Mc-Carthy, Sean Percival. 22 Dec, 8pm. Hurst Street (0121-693 2248) £29.50 inc 3 course meal.

LEICESTER JONGLEURS LEICESTER Aussie funnyman Phil Davey, Gina Yashere, Sean Percival, Brian Higgins. 19 Dec. 7.45pm, Granby Street (0845-6031818) £10.

MANCHESTER AL MURRAY - THE PUB LAND-LORD AT FROG & BUCKET Barking character comedy from the Perrier Award nominee, 21 Dec.

8.30pm, £7 adv. £8 door. **NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE** HYENA CAFE COMEDY Anvil Springstien, American comi Hunter and Milton Jones. 19 Dec 9pm, Leazes Arcade, Leazes Lane

(0191-232 6030) £8 adv, £9 door

CLUBS

BIRMINGHAM

CREAM AT THE HUSH Featuring Darren Darling and Jon Dasilva. 19 Dec. 2am-7am, £12. concs £10/£8. Station Street (0121-242 6607)

GLASGOW CHRISTMAS EVE AT THE TUNNEL Special night with all the Tunnel favourites. 24 Dec. 10pm-5am, £16. Mirchell Street (0141-204 1000)

BACK TO BASICS AT THE MINT CLUB Tonight featuring Mark Farina. 19 Dec. 9.30pm-4am. £10, mems £8. Harrison Street (0113-244 3168)

MANCHESTER FRESHLY SQUEEZED AT BAND ON THE WALL Supreme Saturday night funk with live music from Sanchos. 19 Dec. 9.30pm-2am, £6. Swan Street (0161-833 0682)

EVENTS

gifts for all. The Bridge Inn Baird Road (0131-333 1320) 19 & 20 Dec, 10.30am, 11am, 12noon, 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 2pm, 3pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 20-24 Dec. 5pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8pm,

HOLY LIGHTS Hindu, Jewish and Christian holy lights as used in festival celebrations of Diwali, Chanukah and Christmas. Leeds City Museum Caher-ley Street (0113-2478275) Tue-Sat 10am-5pm. ends 13 Jan. free.

STOCKPORT jugglers and musicians, plus a visit to see Santa. Bramhall Hall Bramhall Park (0161-485 3708) 20 Dec., 11am-

5pm, E4.75, child £4.25 (includes pre-

sent), Limited Leisure key £3.50.

SUNDAY

CHOICE AFTER YEARS as one of Britain's



(right) and turned him into a sort of icon. As a result, he now appears on Desert Island Discs (11.15am R4) for the second time. The BBC is hinting that he is planning to take his own joke-book with him, which is kind.

197 6-99 8MHz FM) 6.30 Kevin Greening, 10.00 Mark Goodier's Radio 1 Request Show 1.00 Lisa l'Anson. 3.00 Top of the Pops. 4.00 The Official UK Top 40. 7.00 Radio 1's Dence Anthems with Dave Pearce. 10.00 Trevor Nelson. 12.00 Emma 8. 4.00 - 6.30

South Mills. Jio 2 CAIHLE FM 7.00 Don Maclean, 9.05 Steve Winght's Sunday Love Songs. 11.00 Parkneson's Sunday Supplement. 1.00 Desmond Carrington. 3.00 Frank Stratus: the Voice of the Century. 4.00 The Michael Feinstein Songbook. 4.30 Sing Something Simple. 5.00 Pam Ayres. 6.00 Julio. 7.00 Hugh Scully. 8.30 Sunday Helf Hour. 9.00 Alan Keith. 10.00 Malcomt Laycock. 11.00 The David Jacobs Collection. 12.00 Katrina Leskenich. 3.00 - 4.00 Mo

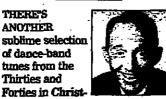
(27.3-92 ft.3-b FMI 6.00 On Air. 9.00 Brian Kay's Sunday Morning. 11.00 Artist of the Week Encore. 12.15 Music Methers. 1.00 Christmas across Films 2.00 Live 12.15 Music Matters. 1.00 Christmes across Europe 2.00 Hungary. 3.00 Great Britain. 4.00 Ireland. 5.00 Sweden, 6.05 Germany, 7.00 Poland, 8.00 Belgium, 9.00 Portugal, 10.00 Sunday Play, The Welt, 11.30 World Music, 12.00 BBC Symphony Orchestra, 1.00 6.00 Through the Night.

Radio 4
22.493 (LIHz FM) 8.00 News Briefing, 6.05
Something Understood, 6.35 On Your Farm, 6.57
Weather, 7.00 News, 7.05 Sunday Papers, 7.10
Sunday, 7.55 Radio 4 Appeal, 8.00 News, 8.05
— Aday Papers, 8.07 Sunday Worship, 8.45 Letter
troft America, 9.00 News; Broadcasting House, 10.00
The Archers, 11.15 Desent Istand Discs, 12.00 News;
Itchy Feet, 12.30 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue, 12.58
Weather, 1.00 The World This Weekend, 1.30 Brain of
Brains 1988, 2.00 Gardeners' Question Time, 2.30
Rambfings, 3.00 The Classic Serial; Bleak House. Brains 1988, 2.00 Gardeners Cuteston Irans. 2.50 Rambings, 3.00 The Classic Serial: Bleak House, 4.00 News; Open Book, 4.30 Poetry Please, 5.00 News; A Mission to Civilise?, 5.40 Feedback, 5.54 Shipping Forecast, 5.57 Weather, 6.00 Six O'Clock News, 6.15 Pick of the Week, 7.00 News; The Archers, 7.15 Room for Improvement, 8.00 The Archers, 7.15 Room for Improvement, 8.00 The Barnes Original, 8.30 Law in Action, 9.00 Naws; The Bear, 9.30 Analysis, 10.00 Naws; The Westminster Hour, 11.00 News; Hidden Treasures, 11.30 Something Understood, 12.00 News, 12.15 Experimental Feature: Great Skes. 12.30 The Late Story: Winter Stories. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 6.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the

Day, 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today. (1984Hz) 12.00 - 12.04 News; Shipping Forecast.

Radio 5 Live
(92. 2094-1/M) 6.00 Brief Lives, 6.30 Andrew Neil.
9.00 Sports/Neek, 10.00 Hayes on Standay, 12.00 Ed
Hall Investigates, 12.30 Media Show, 1.00 Sunday
Sport, 6.00 The Scotisti Premier League, 8.00 News
Edra, 8.30 Brief Lives, 9.00 Dailyn Worldwide, 9.30
Out This Week, 10.00 Late Night Currie, 1.00 Up All
Nebt Ed. 6.00 Membro Sept28 Nght. 5.00 - 6.00 Moming Reports.
World Service Radio
1987: LWI 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Pick of the World.

CHOICE THERES ANOTHER of dance-band



MONDAY

mas Cocktails (7pm R3). The festive season starts with "Christmas Swing" featuring the Dorsey Brothers, Jimmie Lunceford, Bing Crosby (above) and the Andrews Sisters.

| Radio 1 | (37 6-99 6MHz FM) 6.30 Chris Moyles. 9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Kevin Greening. 2.00 Mark Raddiffe. 4.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00 Lamecq Live - the Christmes Party. 12.00 The Breezeblock. 2.00 Emma B. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

Radlo 2 Ractio 2 (83-90.2.9-b Ft.) 6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton. 8.00 Big Band Christmas Special. 8.30 The New Jazz Standards. 9.30 The Rock in Roll Years. 10.30 Richard Allinson. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 - 4.00 Mo Dutta.

90 7:92 JMH: FM) 8:00 On Air. 9:00 Masterwork 193.32 4th-t FM: 6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week: 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Georges Bizet. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 The BBC Orchestras. 4.00 Okral. 4.45 Music to Die For. 5.00 A Medieval Christmas. 5.30 Music to Die For. 5.00 A Medieval Christmas. 5.30 Music Rooms. 6.00 - 6.01 Discovering Music with Leonard Statkin. 7.00 Christmas Cockails. 7.30 Performance on 3. Another representative except from the 1908 BBC Provis. memorable concert from the 1998 BBC Proms season. Prom 54 contained a Proms first: Elgar's dramatic and expressive oratorio The Apostess. 9.40 Postscript, 10.00 Volces. 10.45 Mixing it. 11.30 Jazz Notes. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Johann Sebastian Bach. 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

Radio 4 192 4-94 EAIH2 FM 8.00 Today. 9.00 News; Start the Week, 9.30 Carols for Choins. 9.45 Serial: Scraps with farnucci. 10.00 News; Woman's Hour. 11.00 News; Snepshots from the New South Africa. 11.30 My Snapshots from the New South Africa. 11.30 My Gaiety Girls, 12.00 News; You and Yours. 12.57 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 1.30 Top Brain 1988. 2.00 News; The Archers. 2.15 News; Afternoon Play: Maigret's Christmas. 3.00 Money Box Live: 0171 580 4444. 3.30 Beating the System. 3.45 Colonel Clay-Mester of Disguise. 4.00 News; The Food Programme. 4.30 Turning World. 5.00 PM, 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Stx O'Clock News. 6.30 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue. 7.00 News; The Archers. 7.15 Front Row. 7.45 Under One Roof. 8.00 News; How to Be Happy. 8.30 Analysis. 9.00 News; A Wolf to the North: Fear. 9.30 Start the Week. 10.00 The World Tonight. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Chosen for Christmas. 11.00 Radio 4 Appeal. 11.02 Fathertand. 11.30 Rebok. Music. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: Oxf. of Her Senses. 12.48 Shipping. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 Senses. 12.48 Shipping. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Ferming Today.

199kHz) 9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast, 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast, 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament

Shipping Forecast. 11:30 - 12:00 Today in Parliament. Radio 5 Livre. 16:33 3(9):H: NA) 6:00 Breakfast. 9:00 Brian Hayes. 12:00 The Midday News. 1:00 Puscoe and Co. 4:00 Drive. 7:00 News Extra. 7:30 The Whistie Blower. 8:00 Trevor Brooking's Monday Match. 10:00 Lize Night Live. 1:00 Up All Night. 5:00 - 6:00 Moming Reports. World Service Radio 19:41:140; 1:00 Newsdesk. 1:30 Seven Days. 1:45 Wild Tales. 2:00 Newsdesk. 1:30 Seven Days. 1:45 World News. 3:05 World Business Report. 3:15 Sports Roundlup. 3:30 The Greetest City on Earth. 4:00 - 7:00 The World Today.

4.00 - 7.00 The World Today.

TUESDAY

THE LITTLE girl who was always glad, glad, glad returns in a three-part dramatisation of

(11.30am R4) featuring Gayle Hunnicutt (above) as the redoubtable Aunt Polly. Either the perfect way to sweeten your children's natures, or as an ideal

Mayo. 12.00 Kevin Greening. 2.00 Mark Radciffe. 4.00 Dave Psarce. 8.00 Steve Larracq - the Evening Session 98, 10.00 John Peel. 12.00 The Breczeblock 2.00 Emina B. 4.00 - 6.30 Scotl Mills.

Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 The BBC Orchestras. 4.00 Dival. 4.45 Music to Die Fox. 5.00 A Medieval Christmas. 5.30 Music Rooms. 6.00 Discovering Music with Leonard Station. 7.00 Christmas Cocktais. 7.30 Periformance on 3. Prom 40, given on 18 August. David Wilson-Johnson (bartone), BBC Singers, BBC Symphony Orchestra/Diiver Krussan and Stephen Cleobury. Messiaen: Lascension. George Benjamin: Sometime Volces. Robin Holloway: Hymn to the Senses. Scriabin: The Poem of Erstasy. 9.00 Poetscript. 9.20 Celebrity Trio. 10.45 Book, Music and Lyrics. 11.30 Jazz Notes. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Bach. 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night. Readio 4

News; A Worlt to the North: Fear. 71.30 Polyanna. 12.00 News; You and Yours. 12.57 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 1.30 Full Orchestra. 2.00 News; The Archers. 2.15 Aftermoon Play; Henry's Leg., 3.00 News; The Exchange: 0171 580 4444. 3.30 Beating the System. 3.45 Colonel Clay - Master of Disguise. 4.00 News; A Good Read. 4.30 Shop Talk. 5.00 PM. 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 4 at the Stop. 7.00 News: The Ambren. 7.45 Enest Parts. 7.45 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Stx O'Clock News. 6.30 4 at the Store. 7.00 News; The Archers. 7.15 Front Row. 7.45 Under One Roof. 8.00 News; A Mission to Civilise. 8.40 in Touch. 9.00 News; Case Notes. 9.30 The Choice. 10.00 The World Tonight. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Chosen for Christmas. 11.00 The Now Show. 11.30 Talking Pictures. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: Out of Her Senses. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Familia Today. Radio 4 LW

News Headlines; Shipping Forecast, 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast, 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Paragumana. Radio 5 Live (93, 903)-12 NW) 6.00 Breeklast. 9.00 Brien Hayes. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Drive. 7.00 News Extra. 7.30 The Life and Death of Belfast Celtic. 8.00 Play it Again. 9.00 When Winter Comes. 10.00 Late Night Live. 1.00 Up Ali Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports. World Service Radio (1984-12 LW) 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Discovery. 2.00 Newsday. 2.30 Meridian (Live). 3.00 World News. 3.05 World Business Report. 3.15 Sports Roundup. 3.30 One Planet. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today.

WEDNESDAY

(97 6-99 9MHz FMII 6.30 Chris Moyles, 9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Kevin Greening. 2.00 Mark Raddiffe. 4.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00 Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session 98: 10.00 John Peel. 12.00 Gilles Peterson. 2.00 Emma B. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

Radio 2
(%)-90 1:M-t FM) 6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewar. 5.05 Johnne Welker. 7.00 Nick Barraciough. 8.00 Mike Harding. 9.00 The Andy Peables Soul Show. 10.00 Richard Allmson. 11.45 Following My Star. 12.00 Ketrina Leskensch. 3.00 - 4.00 Mo Dutta.

60 2-92 4세년: FMI 6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterwo 190 2-32 -3.14; PM 6.00 On Air, 9.00 Masterworks, 10.30 Artist of the Week, 11.00 Sound Stories, 12.00 Composer of the Week Bizet, 1.00 The Paglio 3 Lunchtime Cortoert, 2.00 The BBC Orchestras, 4.00 Choral Evensorg, 5.00 A Medieval Christmas, 5.30 Music Rooms, 6.00 Discovering Music with Leonard Statistin, 7.00 Christmas Cooldails, 7.30 Performance on 3. Prom 69, given on 8 September, teatures Sympanouski's radiarity beautiful Viniin Concerto No. cai 3. From og, greft on 8 september, teatures Szymanowski's radiantily beautiful Violin Concerto No 1. Raphael Oleg (violin), Czech PO/Libor Pesek. Dvorak: Overture Wy Homer, Szymanowski: Violin Concerto No 1. Brahms: Symphony No 1 in C minos 9.10 Postscript. 9.30 Beethoven and Mozart Cuintets. 10.45 Book, Music and Lyrics. 11.30 Jazz Notes. 12.00 Composer of the Weelc Bach. 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Note. Through the Night.

Radia 4
(22.4-94 6.4-t- Ph.) 6.00 Today, 8.00 News; Michweek,
9.30 Carols for Chors, 9.45 Serial; Scraps with
lamnucd, 19.00 News; Worman's Hour, 11.00 News;
Classic Toys, 11.30 Polyarna, 12.00 News; You and
Yours, 12.57 Weather, 1.00 The World at One, 1.30
Wildbrain, 2.00 News; The Archers, 2.15 Afternoon
Play Henry's Lett, 3.00 News; Garrience's Cuestion Animals Behaving Bacity, 9.30 Michweik, 10.00 The World Tonight, 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Chosen for Christmas, 11.00 Children's Hour, with Armstrong and Miller, 11.30 4 at the Store, 12.00 News, 12.30 The Late Book Out of Her Senses, 12.48 Shipping Forecast, 1,00 As World Service, 5,30 World News. 5,35 Shipping Forecast, 5,40 Inshore Forecast, 5,45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Ferming Today. Radio 4 LW

(1984-b) 9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service, 12.00 - 12.04 News; Shipping Forecast, 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping.

CHRISTMAS EVE

CHOICE WHAT A year it's been; with devolution, tax shelters, peace

(almost) in Northern 1 Ireland, outings to Clapham Common on Newsnight and now the Pinochet (above) excitement, among other things. In The Year in Westminster

97 6-39 340th 51.4 6.30 Chris Moyles, 9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Kevin Greening. 2.00 The Best Mark & Lard Show in the World. Evert. 4.00 Dave Pearce. 6.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection. 9.00 Judge Jules. 11.00 Senctified Dance Party. 1.00 Gilles

Peterson. 4.00 - 9.00 Emma B.

Radio 3 902-90 4MHz FM 6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks 10.30 Arist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Composer of the Week. Bizet. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 The BEC Orchestras. 4.00 Dwal. 4.45 Music to Die For. 5.00 A Medieval Christmas. 5.30 Music Rooms. 8.00 Discovering Music with Leonard Slatkin, 7.00 Christmas Cocktails 7.30 Performance on 3. Prom 65, given on 6 September, honoured the title and achievement of the late Sir Michael Tippett with a performance of his oratorio 'A Child of Our Time'. 9.35 Postscript. 9.55

92 4-94 6MHz P.S. 8.00 Today, 9.00 News; In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg. 9.30 Carols for Chors. 9.45 Serial: Scraps with Jannucci. 10.00 News; Woman's Hour, 11.00 News; From Our Own Corresponders, 11.30 Pollyarma, 12.00 News; You and Yours, 12.57 Weather, 1.00 The World at One, 1.30 Hidden Treasures, 2.00 News; The Archers, 2.15 Afternoon Play: The Teahouse Detective, 3.00 News; A Festival riay: The leancuse betective 3.00 news; A resilvar of Nine Lessons and Carols. 4.30 Word of Mouth's Festive Phrasebook. 5.00 PM. 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 The Womers. 7.00 News; The Archers. 7.15 From Flow. 7.45 Under One Roof. 9.00 News; The Year in Westminster. 9.00 News; Ground Control. 9.30 in Our Time with Melvyn Bragg. 10.00 News; Pick of the Year. 10.45 Book at Bedfinne: Chosen for Christmas. 11.00 The Modern Magl. 11.30 Midnight Mass, 12.30 The Late Book: Out of Her Senses, 12.48 Shipping 1.00 As World Service, 5.30 World News, 5.35 Shipping, 5.40 Inshore Forecast, 5.45 Prayer for the Day, 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscos and Co. 4.00 Drive. 7.00 News Extra. 7.30 All Ye Farthful. 8.00

EDINBURGH JOOLS HOLLAND AND HIS RHYTHM & BLUES ORCHESTRA The popular TV presenter revs up his boogle-woogle big band. Playhouse Theatre Greenside Place (0131-557 2950) 19 Dec. 7.30pm. £15.

KING PLEASURE & THE BISCUIT BOYS 1940s Kansas jazz and jump jive. Bourbon Street George Street 20141-552 0141) 19 & 20 Dec. Spm.

AAN AND THE

ntman of the ec-fit, Family, with his Time Orange Burn-116-254 3077) 23 Dec. 8pm. . . .

LIVERPOOL SPACE Quirky and unpredictable post-Britpop hometown malarkey from Tornmy Scott and Co. Royal Court Roe Street (0151-709 4321)

MANCHESTER M PEOPLE, LYNDEN DAVID HALL Chart-soul and R&B featuring the dis-tinctive vocals of Heather Small 19 Dec. 7pm. £21.50.Manchester Evening News Arena Victoria Sta-tion, Hunt's Bank (0161-930 8000)

20 & 21 Dec. 7pm, £30. CULTURE CLUB. HUMAN LEAGUE. ABC All star 1980s line-up headed by George's soul popsters. Telewest Arena Neville Street (0191-401 8000) 20 Dec. 7pm, £25.25.

EDINBURGH

SANTA CRUISES Cruise along the Union Canal to Santa's Grotto with ends 24 Dec, £5.50 per person.

YULETEDE MAGIC Magicians, clowns,

CHRISTMAS DAY

RADIO

CHOICE

Pollyanna punishment when they misbehave.

Radio 1 (97 (-99 84H: FM) **6.30 Chris Moyles, 9.00 Simon**

Radio 2
(88-90 Z.M.Hz. P.d.) 6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan, 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewert, 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Evelyn Glernie's Classics. 8.00 Nigel Ogden. 9.00 Annual Delights. 10.00 Richard Allinson. 12.00 Katrina Lestanich. 3.00 - 4.00 Mo Dutta.

Radio 3 (9) 2-92 4MHz FM) 6.00 On Air, 9.00 Masterworks, 10.30 Anist of the Week, 11.00 Sound Stories, 12.00 Composer of the Week, Bizel, 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtine Concert, 2.00 The BBC Orchestras, 4.00

(92 4-94 6MHz; FM) 6.00 Today, 9.00 News; The Cholce, 9.30 Carols for Choixs, 9.45 Serial; Scraps with lannucci, 10.00 News; Woman's Hour, 11.00 News; A Wolf to the North; Fear, 11.30 Pollyanna.

(1984Hz) 9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04

CHOICE

OF COURSE, we all know by now that, left to itself, Mother Nature is an abusive old harridan, but it's

good to have all the evidence to hand. In a four-part series, Animals Behaving Badly (9pm R4), Mark Carwardine looks at some of her nastier tricks: murderous rooks,

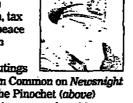
infanticidal seals and hamsters.

Radio 3

Play: Henry's Leg. 3.00 News; Gardeners' Question Time. 3.30 Beating the System. 3.45 Colonel Clay-Master of Disguise. 4.00 News; Case Notes. 4.30 Thinking Allowed. 5.00 PM. 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 Booked!. 7.00 News; The Archers. 7.15 Front Row. 7.45 Under One Roof. 8.00 News; Education 2000. 845 Keyword. 9.00 News; Education 2000. 845 Keyword. 9.00 News; Education 2000. 845 Keyword. 9.00 News;

Radio 5 Live

(93, 994H: NW) 6.00 Breaklast, 9.00 Brian Hayes.
12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00
Drive, 7.00 News Edra, 7.30 The Life and Death of
Belfast Cetic, 8.00 Any Sporting Questions, 10.00
Late Night Live. 1.00 Lip All Night, 4.00 Edra Time.
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.
World Service Radio
(1984H: LW) 1.00 Newsdesk, 1.30 Omnibus, 2.00
Newsday, 2.30 Meridian (Books), 3.00 World News.
3.05 World Business Report, 3.15 Sports Roundup.
3.30 Foul Play, 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today. Radio 5 Live



Steve Richards compare notes.

(8pm R4) Boris Johnson and

Peterson. 4.00 - 9.00 Emma B.
Radio 2
(33-40 T.HE 556 6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Wake Up to
Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Steve Wright's
Christmas Million Sellers. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05
Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Saturday Night Fever. 8.00 Paul
Jones. 9.00 Barry Took's Cornedy Classics. 9.30 Love
40 - New Bails Please. 10.00 Paul Gambaccin. 11.00
Carols by Candlelight. 11.59 Pause for Thought.
12.00 Katrina Leskanuch. 3.00 - 4.00 Mo Durita.
Readio 3

Fibonacci Sequence. 10.45 Book, Music and Lyrics. 11.30 Jazz Notes. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Bach. 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

Radio 4 LW Hadio 4 LW (1984t) 845 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 Newe: Shipping. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. Radio 5 Live (693, 9094t; 189) 8.00 Breakfast 9.00 Brian Hayes.

Drive, 7,00 News Extra, 7,30 All Ye Fathful, 8,00 Inside Edge, 9,00 Brief Lives, 10,00 20th-Century Vox - Good Time Britain, 11,00 Late Night Live, 1,00 Up All Night, 4,00 Extra Time, 5,00 - 5,00 Brief Lives, Wtorld Service Radio 11569-E LIV/1,00 Newsdesk, 1,30 Composer of the Month, 2,00 Newsday, 2,30 Focus on Faith, 3,00 World News, 3,05 World Susiness Report, 2,15 Scoots Brief Lives 1,50 Edge of Earne 198, 3,30 Novel Brief of E

Sports Roundup: the Best of France '98. 3.30
Assignment, 4,00 - 7,00 The World Today.

CHOICE

ONE OF Dirk Maggs's movies for radio, The Gemini Apes (2.15pm R4) is

one for those who can't find enough movies on TV. Dense electronic sounds pad out a slimline story about two chimps sent into orbit 40 years ago, returning blessed with remarkable intelligence and

PRIABING 1 .07 6-99 -3.4Hz FM 9.00 Zoe Ball. 12.00 Clive Warren. 2.00 A TOTP Christmas. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 11.00 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show. 2.00 Fabic and Grooverider. 4.00 - 7.00 Emma B. Radio 2

set to bring Christmas cheer.

Radio 2
(85-40 2MHz FM) 6.00 Roger Royle, 8.00 Good Morning, 10.00 Terry Wogan, 11.00 Ken Bruce, 2.00 The Monkhouse Archive, 2.30 News Huddines, 3.00 The Queen, 3.10 Ed Stewart, 5.00 Christmas with Celine, 6.00 Pavarotti in Conversation, 7.00 Huberl Gregg, 8.00 Christmas at Bath Abbey, 9.15 Alarn Freeman, 10.15 Listen to the Band, 11.00 Peace on Earth, 12.00 Lynn Persons, 4.00 - 6.00 Lata Sharma, Radio 3

907-30 46:Hr Ft.h 6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks (20 2-92 46-92 46-92 FLM 6.00 On Air, 9.00 Masterworks, 10.30 Artist of the Week, 11.00 Sound Stones, 12.00 Composer of the Week, Bizet, 1.00 Lunchyme Concert, 2.00 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, 3.40 in Terra Paix 4.00 Divel, 4.45 Music to Die Fox, 5.00 A Medieval Christmas, 5.30 Music Rooms, 6.00 Discovering Music with Leonard Station, 7.00 Christmas Cocktails, 7.30 Performance on 3, 10.50 Postscript, 11.10 Schumann, 11.30 And His Mother Called Him Bill, 12.00 Composer of the Week, Bach, 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night. 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

Radio 4 IP: 1호로 (사는 FLS 6.00 News; Something Understood, 7.00 News; Open Country 8.00 News; Joy to the World, 9.00 News; Service, 10.00 News; Desert Island Discs. 10.45 Under One Roof, 11.00 News; Christmas Panto. 12.00 News; Shipping. 12.04 I'm Sony I Heven't a Clue. 12.30 Screen Test. 12.57 I'm sorry i Haven't a Cuie i 12.30 Screen lest. 12.57 Weather 1.00 The World at One, 1.02 Derek Cooper's Christmas Lunch. 2.00 News; The Archers. 2.15 The Gemm's Apes. 3.45 Colonel Clay - Master of Disguise. 4.00 News; The Queen. 4.10 With Pleasure at Christmas. 5.00 A Night with the Owls. 5.25 Life on Christmas Street. 6.00 Str. O'Clock News. 6.05 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clip. 6.30 Nighe Ours, et New News. Sorry I Haven't a Clue, 6.30 News Quiz of the Year 7.00 News; The Archers. 7.15 Front Row. 7.45 Under One Roof. 8.00 News; Correspondents Look Ahead. 8.45 Letter front America. 9.00 News; Christmas Panto. 10.00 News; With Pleasure at Christmas. 10.45 Book at Bedtirna: Chosen for Christmae. 11.00 The Modern Magi. 11.30 Revealed Lives. 11.45 Christmas Night Meditation. 12.00 Life on Christmas Street. 12.30 The Late Book: Out of Her Senses. 12.48 Shipping, 1.00 As World Service, 5.30 World News, 5.35 Shipping, 5.40 Inshore, 5.45 Prayer for the Day, 5,47 Leisure Update, 5,56 - 6,00 Weather, Radio 4 LW (198-Ht) 12.00 - 7.00 Test Match Special.

Readio 5 Live
1033 9056/Hz MW 6.00 The Life and Death of Belfast Celtic 7.00 Breakfast 9.00 Sportscall. 10.00 The Best of Campbell. 12.00 Sportlight 98, 1.00 Up All Night All Day, 4.00 The Best of Ruscoe and Co. 6.00 Gadget Speckd. 7.00 A Z of Emertainment, 8.00 A Green Chistographs. Green Christmas. 9.00 Bnef Lives. 10.00 20th-Ce Family Life. 11.00 Late Night Live. 1.00 Up All Night, 4.00 Extra Time, 5.00 - 6.00 Brief Lives

Night, 4.00 Extra Time, 5.00 - 6.00 oner Lives. World Service Radio (1994-t-1.W 1.00 Newsdesk, 1.30 Smell Worlds, 1.45 Short Story, 2.00 Newsday, 2.30 People and Politics, 3.00 News, 3.05 Business Report, 3.15 Sport, 3.30 Science in Action, 4.00 Newsdask, 4.30 Weekend, 2.00 Newsdask, 2.50 Veekend, 2.50 Newsdask, 2.50 Veekend, 2.50 Newsdask, 2.50 New 5.00 Newsday, 5.30 Outlook, 5.55 - 6.00 Spotlight

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CHRISTMAS EVE TELEVISION

BBC1

- 7.00 News (3596601). 740 Tooth Fairles (6992415). 745 Teletubbies (5993057). 7.40 Moomin (8830569). 8.05 Tazmania (7242057). 8,30 Blue Peter (8204095). 8,55 Sweet Valley High (8283502). 9,20 Fame Game (9397786). 9,55 Teletubbies (S) (9942347). 10,20 News (6343057).
- 10.30 All I Want for Christmas (1991). Leslie Nielsen stars as Santa in this family comedy (S)(T) (5771328).
- **11.55** New Adventures of Superman (T) (9189415). **12.45** Good Neighbours (S) (73736366). **12.55** News (T) (36279989). **1.10** Neighbours (S) (T) (58847057).
- 135 FILM Lassie: a New Generation (1994). Family drama (S)(T) (7726647).
- 3.05 Live and Kicking Mystery Toons Kids' special (S)(T) (5570231).
- 3.45 FILM The Santa Clause (1994). Smarrny toy salesman Tim Allen is groomed for Santa Claus duties by some North Pole elves (S)(T) (181873).
- 5.15 Neighbours (S)(T) (8734502).
- 5.40 Whatever You Want for Christmas (S)(T) (223786).
- 6.30 News (T) (845).
- 7.00 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook. Culnary challenge (S)(T) (6347).
- 7.30 EastEnders (S)(T) (279).
- 8.00 Anima! Hospital (S)(T) (5095).
- 8.30 Birds of a Feather (S)(T) (388328).
- 9.10 News (T) (866250).
- 9.30 Jonathan Creek (S)(T) (65637).
- 11.00 The Frank Skinner Christmas **Show** (S)(T) (731163).
- 11.40 Christmas is Coming (S) (812502).
- 12.40 Carry On Again, Doctor (1963). Bedpan humour (T) (7493835).

2.10 News 24 (94904670). To 6am.

BBC2

- 6.10 FILM Modern Times (1936). Chapin's last silent film (78-47182).
- 7.35 Key Largo (1948). Hoodium Edward G Robinson is holed up in storm-swept Florida hotel with Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall (T) (97698786).
- 9,15 FILM One Magic Christmas (1985). Seasonal fare (S)(T) (8890618).
- 10.40 To Have and Have Not (1944), Humphrey Bogart helps the Free French (T) (45657499).
- 12.20 Rex the Runt (S)(T) (6647453), 12.30 Rex the Runt (S)(T) (36267144), 12.40 The West (S)(T) (7728618).
- 2.05 Shemandoah (1965). Virginia farmer James Stewart's family is torn apart during the Civil War (T) (868415).
- 3.45 Choir of the Year (S)(T) (4560368). 4.25 Carols from King's (1) (2280298). 5.40 The Simpsons (3)(1) (517705). 6.05 Rex the Runt (5)(1) (271892). 6.15 The Simpsons (R)(5)(1) (900892).
- 6.35 C:00 It's a Wonderful Life (1946), James Stewart stars in Frank Capra's classic Christmas fairytale. See Choice, below (T) (79724434).
- 8.40 Dear John a Tribute to John Wells. An affectionate profile of the late satirist (S)(T) (361818).
- 9.30 The Search for Shangri-la. A fascinating film documenting historian Charles Allen's attempts to prove the tence of Shangri-la (S)(T) (844521).
- 10.20 Meetings with Remarkable Trees (R)(S)(T) (158106).
- 10.30 The Moonstone. Wilkie Collins' classic detective story. An heiress is given a priceless diamond - stolen from a shrine in India by her uncle - but it brings with it a curse. Patricia Hodge heads the cast (R)(S)(T) (69645724).
- 12.40 The Haunting (1963). Psychic investigators visit a Boston mansion. With Claire Bloom and Julie Harris (T) (256090). To 2.35am.

THURSDAY CHOICE

TODAY IT'S almost everybody's favourite Christmas film, but back in 1946, audiences found Frank Capra's It's a Wonderful

Life (6.35pm BBC2) too syrupy and

avoided it in droves. This year it might be

too close to the bone for some owners of small businesses. James Stewart stars as a man on the verge of financial ruin and about commit suicide, when his guardian

angel, played by Henry Travers, appears.

He promptly takes Stewart on a heartwarming journey to show him what life

would have been like if he'd never existed.

ITV Granada

- 6.00 GMTV (1969637). 9.25 News (T) (4200618). 9.35 Tirry Toons (R)(S)(T) (1878811). 10.00 Rocky and the Dodos (R)(S) (3262502). 10.15 Art Attack mas Cracker (R)(S) (2907250).
- 10.50 The Snow Queen (1995).
 Animated version of the glistering fairytale (S)(T) (5793540).
- **Granada News** (8841279). **12.30** News (48732). **1.00** Emmerdale (97366). **1.30** Charlotte Church Voice of an Angel (98273). 2.00 Paddington (77737328). 2.10 Animaniacs (17058927). 2.35 Hey Arnold! (8729340). 3.00 In the House with Cleopatra... (1873). **4.00** Granada News (6889683). **4.10** Carols for Christmas (8440665). **4.35** Nutcracker (9487705). 5.00 News: Weather (T) (3816182).
- 5.15 Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit (1993). Whoopi Goldberg stars in this comedy sequel (S) (23804892).
- 7.00 Emmerdale (S)(T) (1415).
- 7.30 The Bill (T) (69811).
- 8.30 Heartbeat. Drama series. Mysterious events make a woman believe her baby is about to die (S)(T) (54453).
- 9.30 The Ruth Rendell Mysteries: You Can't Be Too Careful Crime drama (S)(T) (6063347).
- 10.35 News; Weather. (T) (737960). 10.50 This is Celine Dion (T) (331927). 11.30 Christmas Glory (T) (43989).
- 12.30 Film Brief Encounter (1945). Celia Johnson has an Nicit yet unconsummated affair with a married doctor, Trevor Howard (T) (325854).
- 2.05 Christmas on Division Street (1991). Social-conscience drama (284090).
- 3.50 Spooks Run Wild (1941). Horror comedy (3579632).
- 5.05 Hurricanes (S)(T) (7944293). 5.30 Mumfie's White Christmas (R) (9773212). 5.55 News (9433361). To 6am.

Sky Premier
6.05 A Chrismas Carol (98A 46521) 8.00 Angala in
the fact (957) (3338), 10.00 The Prescher's We
(959) \$474, 12.00 A Christmas Carol (98A 53006),
1.45 Angala in the Asia (957) (5653) 8.45 II Be
Home to Chrismas (959) \$65589, 5.30 The Preschor's We (959) \$6758, 7.30 Holywood 8.22 (429),
8.00 Arms Kamma (857) (8586), 7.30 The Principal
ory (959) (3490), 11.00 Enterm Measures (1956)
(478-9), 150 Ente if Per (1959) \$7539, 3.20 - 6.00
Empire Records (959) \$7230),
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Empire Records (1965), (97280), (1965) (1965) (1965) (1965) (1965) (1965) (1965) (1965) (1965) (1965) (1965) (1965) (1965) (1965) (1965) (1965) (1967

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4.00 Bright ID Baby 1938; (7309093, 6.00 Father Bown* (85-6) 975057, 8.00 Indited After (95-9) 9720309, 9.30 Individual Hall Father (95-9) 1930 The Curs of Absorber (95-0) 2887599; 22.35 The Laughing Policemon (97-9) 2897599; 22.35 The French Comercian (971) (3009073, 445 Earth is the French Comercian (971) (3009073, 445 Earth is the

Channel 4

- For Better for Worse (96637). 7.30 The Magic Keeper (75144). 8.00 The Big Breakfast (S)(T) (40960). 10.00 Buzz (50347). 10.30 Eerie, Indiana (S)(T) (9866724). 10.55 Secret, World of Alex Mark (E) (5) (49565). 41 20 More Mack (R)(S) (4185366). 11.30 Moesha (S)(T) (6927). 12.00 Madison (6846637). 12.35 Ted Hughes: in His Own Words (R)(S)(T) (4406231). 1.05 The Real
- 2.05 Annie (1982). Little orphan Alleen Quinn finds happiness in this rousing musical (T) (85799095).

Vativity Show (R)(T) (4640429).

- The Snowman (T) (960), 5.00 The Bear (2521), 5.30 Countdown (T) (540).
- 6.00 A Perfect Carry On (R)(T) (13453).
- 7.00 Heroes of Comedy. A tribute to Tony Hancock, one of Britain's best-loved comedians (R)(S)(T) (7163).
- 8.00 Surmt Bits. Entertaining compilation of TV cookery mishaps (T) (8705).
- 8.30 The Christmas Italian Kitchen, A look at desserts and festive treats for the sweet-toothed (T) (7340).
- 9.00 Rising Damp (R)(T) (7434).
- 9.30 Father Ted Christmas Special.
 Ted, Dougal and six other priests take a wrong turn during a shopping trip and find themselves lost in a lingerie department (R)(S)(T) (6061989).
- 10.35 Snow Graham Norton, Graham Norton presents an over-the-top Christmas celebration (562750).
- 11.15 David Blaine's Street Magic (T) (561231).
- 12:10 Black Christmas (1975). Atmospheric horror (741583).
- 2.00 Theatre of Blood (1973).
- Entertaining black comedy (T) (939038).
- 3.50 House of Wax (1953). Atmospheric chiller (839380).
- 5.25 Gagarin (2810800). 5.35 2 Stupid Dogs (R)(S) (6052516). **5.55** Sesame Street (R)(S) (9940477). To 7am.

SATELLITE & CABLE

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Channel 5

- 6.00 Wind in the Willows (R) (25772453). 6.20 Roobarb (R) (32771724). 6.30 Dappledown (4451908). 7.00 Wimzie's House (R)(S) (6887095). 7.30 Milkshakel (2426095). 7.35 Havakazoo (6098298). 8.00 Geome of the Imple (5192250). (2426095), 7.35 Havaka200 (6096290), 8.00 George of the Jungle (7492250), 8.30 What a Mess (R) (7491521), 9.00 Loggerheads (7482873), 9.30 USA High (2012231), 10.00 The Gods of Olympus (9974908), 10.20 Sunset Beach (S)(T) (9974908). 10.20 Sunset Beach (3)(1)(5695219). 11.40 Leeza (S) (8384927). 11.55 Postcards (R) (99856637). 12.00 5 News at Noon (S)(T) (7402637). 12.30 Family Affairs (2023347). 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (S)(T) (6886366). 1.30 Sons and Daughters (87554960).
- 1.50 A Different Kind of Christmas (1996). Shelley Long's dad thinks he's Santa Claus (S)(T)
- 3.40 Film The Adventures of Baron Munchausen (1989). John Neville stars as the braggart German officer in Terry Giffiam's epic fantasy (S)(T) (95088908).
- 6.00 100 Per Cent (S) (2238637).
- **6.30 Family Affairs** (S)(1) (7567540).
- 7.10 Project Grizzly (1) (6419778).
- 8.10 Xena: Warrior Princess (2865927). 9.00 Elli Behind Closed Doors (1994). Lesley-Anne Down is spooked by an intruder in another inferior thriller 'inspired' by classic 1950s chiller Les Diaboliques (S)(T) (38529057).
- 10.50 Melinda's Big Night In. (2759163). 11.30 Stags and Hens (7913786).
- 12.30 Faster, Pussycati Kill Kill! (1965). Russ Meyer's B-movie about a gang of violent motorcycle vixens (S) (2033729).
- 2.00 The High Price of Passion (1986). Richard Crenna is infatuated by a prostitute, Karen Young. (S) (7745670).
- **3.50 Night Stand** (5592449). **4.30** The Road (78212616). **4.40** Prisoner: Cell Block H (8018449). **5.30** 100 Per Cent (R)(S) (7031458). To 6am.

UIK Gold

200 Crastrats (#6888), 200 Neighbours (#29776),
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2.00 The Bill (\$50502), 8.20 The Bill (\$40510),
2.00 The Bill (\$50505), 11.00 Dates (\$504078, 11.05),
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- CSG6273, 3.80 Film, Etho of Dame (SS78003)
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 8.00 Euro News (MS54527), 7.26 This Christmes
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- Nurses on the Line (8705859, 4.33 Ferr. Cremes of Pession: Victims of Love (15/6769).

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 6.00 Den 2 AM: Lizzie's Lürary (33455059, 5.30 Orson and Chikis (9555781), 6.35 Limbuchatikes of Blot Mouse (20-06182), 7.05 The Country Mouse and Chikis (9555781), 6.35 Limbuchatikes of Blot Mouse (20-06182), 7.05 The Country Mouse and Chikis (950277), 6.35 Limbuchatikes (25762014), Mouse Alternatives (25762014), Mouse Alternatives (25762014), Mouse and Chikis (950277), 6.35 Limbuchatikes (25762014), Line Principal (9502014), 8.05 Limbuchatikes (9502014), 8.05 Limbucha

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 The School around the Corner (\$684,796), 8.30
 Christings Whester (\$2785, 6.35 UTV News and
 Farming Weather (\$8852), 6.30 As Mibad Up (\$53).

CHRISTMAS DAY TELEVISION

8.00 The Statistical Redemption (1994) (1968) 333.

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92588, 8,00 Aerobes (7257) 8,30 Figure Story
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BBC1

- 6.00 Teletubbies (S) (4162835). 6.25 Noddy in Toyland (S) (7988651), 7.20 PJ's Unfunnybunny Christmas (R)(S) (5983670). 7.45 Scrooge Koala Christmas (S) (8899212). 840 Alvin and the Chipmunks (R) (T) (4716941). 8.35 To Me... to You (S)(T) (8270038). 9.00 Rotten Ralph (27835). 9.30 Teletubbies (S) (46458). 10.00 Celebrate Christmas with Deborah McAndrew (S)(T) (16380).
- 11.00 Film Miracle on 34th Street (1994). Richard Attenborough stars as a department store Santa in this remake of the 1940s favourite (S)(T) (44162699).
- 12.50 Top of the Pops (T) (8684477). 1.50 News (79556583). **1.55** Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show (R)(T) (5055729). 3.00 The Queen (S)(T) (1857854). 3.10 ents (5699980). Noels Christmas Pres 4.10 Animal Hospital (S)(T) (7007854). 4.45 The First Snow of Winter (S)(T) (160767). 5.15 News (T) (2017670). 5.25 EastEnders (S)(T) (8721038).
- 5.55 Auntie's Spanking New Bloomers. With Terry Wogan (S)(T) (930496).
- 6.30 Changing Rooms Christmas Special (S)(T) (816).
- 7.00 FILL Babe (1995). The Babe in question is a pig who wants to be a sheep in this dever animatronic children's film from Australia (S)(T) (51187).
- 8.30 EastEnders (S)(T) (2477).
- 9.00 Before They Were Famous EL With Angus Deayton (S)(T) (242670).
- 9.40 News; Weather (T) (281477).
- 9.50 Men Behaving Badly. First of a festive three-parter (S)(T) (541854). 10.35 They Think It's All Over (848564).
- 11.10 A Many Spiritered Thing (102372). 11.40 The People's Nativity (808941). 11.45 Robbie Williams (539699). 12.35 Carry On Girls (1973). Smuthitickle with Sid James and Joan Sims (1) (7398336).
- 2.05 News 24 (94878201). To 6am.

BBC2

- 6.15 The Great Lie (1941). George Brent is married to Mary Astor but loves Bette Davis (T) (91394380).
- 8.00 The Treasure of the Sierra Madre (1948). Adventurers fall out while prospecting for gold, Humphrey Bogart stars in this classic John Huston drama (T) (97767).
- 10.00 Off Get Off Our Train (S)(T) (90854).
 10.30 Peter Rabbit and Friends (R)(S)(T) (9795800). **10.55** Here's Looking at You: 75 Years of Warner Bros (S)(T) (3730835).
- 11.45 Dodge City (1939), Errol Plynn fights for right in the Old West. With Olivia de Havilland (T) (15389941).
- Gogs Gogwana (S)(T) (58824106). 1.55 Big Hug: the Story of Teletubbies (9349598). 2.35 Rex the Runt (1425903). 2.45 The Simpsons (S)(T) (6380470)
- 3.10 IIIIII Casabianca (1942). Ingrid Bergman and Humphrey Bogart star in this classic wartime romance (51904485).
- 4.50 Choir of the Year (S)(T) (8331361). 5.30 Nutcracker Sweeties. Jazzed-up Tchalkovsky (S)(T) (919903).
- 6.05 FILM Twelfth Night (1996). Richard E Grant and Helen Bonham-Carter head the cast in Shakesneares dark comedy of love (S)(T) (70058922).
- 8.15 Close Up. In-depth profile of the late
- Ted Hughes (S)(T) (620583). G:OO: Arena. The life and career of Brian Epstein. See Choice, below (S)(T) (7548583).
- **10.20 The Queen** (S) (503496).
- 10.30 Dance Lexie Dance. Oscarnominated drama. (R)(S)(T) (602309).
- Immortal Beloved (1994). Gary Oldman stars as Beethoven (S)(T)
- 12.45 Prick Up Your Ears (1987). Biography of the playwright Joe Orton, with Gary Oldman (507688). To 235am.
 - **4.45 Movie Magic** (R) (2465510). **5.35** Cartoon Time (3501846). **5.55** News (9337133). To 6am.

ITV Granada

- the Morning (S)(T) (1815583). 10.20 Sooty and Co Christmas Special (1) Queen (T) (1842922), 340 Christmas Disney Time (T) (3899908). 4410 Jack and the Beanstalk (S) (T) (79320854).
- 7.00 Coronation Street. The Street ralles round as Jack and Vera stage a sit-in.
- 8.00 You've Been Framed at Christmas. Lisa Riley heads to the Arctic Circle for a festive edition of outtakes from home videos (T) (8038).
- 8.30 Who Wants to be a Christmas tionaire? Chris Tarrant presents the quiz show in which contestants attempt to give 15 correct answers to win a prize of £1 million (T) (82903).
- stories of sloshed Santas, dead donkeys, a festive elephant which ran arnok and a farmer who let his pet turkey become a Christmas dinner (S)(T) (44106).
- (1974). Al Pacino, Robert De Niro and wnning masterpiece from Francis Ford Coppola, about the life of a Mafia family (T) (84440125).

Channel 4

- 7.00 For Better or for Worse (R) (31699). 7.30 Max Bear's Christmas (R) (10106). 8.00 The Big Breakfast (S) (37497699).
- 9.55 Swallows and Amazons (1974). Children's adventure (T) (94001361). **11.40 BilPs New Frock** (R)(S)(T) (1087496). **12.15** Famous Fred (R)(S)(T) (274309). **12.45** Father Christmas (R)(T) (266380).

1.15 FILM Torn Thumb (1958). Try hero

- Russ Tamblyn out wits comic villains Peter Sellers and Terry-Thomas (T) (34687941).
- 3.00 The Alternative Christmas **Message** (T) (1840564). 3.50 The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery (1966). The only St Trinian's farce in colour (63609813).
- 4.50 Countdown Grand Final (1205212). 5.35 Gilbert and Sulfivan (922545).
- 5.55 The Queen (627926). 6.05 Hansel and Gretel. The Welsh National Opera's colourful production of

the Brothers Grimm fairytale (75343309).

Peck stars in this horror film about the son

- 8.00 Bernstein. Two-part biographical film (concluding tomorrow) about Leonard Bernstein (T) (8748).
- 9.00 FILM Remember Me (1996). Kelly McGillis stars in this suspense film based on a US bestseller (T) (75499019). 10.35 FILM The Omen (1976). Gregory
- of the Devil (S)(T) (51098941). 12.40 The Fly (1958). Scientist Al Hedison shares his Invention with a fly and becomes a monster (T) (786268)
- 2.15 The Return of the Fly (1959). Jokey horror sequel (566539). 3.45 Cry of the City (1948). Two childhood buddles take different paths.
- 5.20 Super Mario Brothers (1047794). 5.35 2 Stupid Dogs (5301828). 5.55 Sesame Street (9844249). To 7am.

With Victor Mature (1) (306794).

Channel 5

- 6.00 The Wind in the Willows (25730477). 6.25 Roobarb (R) (37227583). 6.30 Dappledown Farm (R) (4411380). 7.00 Wirnzie's House (R)(S) (6854767). **7.30** Milkshakel (S) (2493767). 7.35 Havakazoo (R) (S) (6058670). 8.00 George of the Jungle (R) (7469922). 8.30 What-a-Mess (R) (7468293). **9.00** Loggerheads (R)
- 10.50 FILM Scrooge A Christmas Carol (1951). Alastair Sim is unforgettable
- as the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge. A great story superbly told (T) (25057800). **12.30 Family Affairs** (S)(T) (2090019). **1.00** Michael Flatley Talking with Sir David Frost (S)(T) (42755980).
- 2.05 Major Barbara (1941). Wealthy Wendy Hiller joins the Salvation Army to help the needy (T) (9067380).
- 4.05 Film Calamity Jane (1953). Energetic sound-stage western with Doris Day (S)(T) (11200564).
- 6.00 5 News Update (6286941). 6.05 Performance: Bryn Terfel (7320467).
- **6.35 Family Affairs** (S)(T) (6749699).
- 7.05 Night Fever (8824794). 8.00 Fort Boyard (S)(T) (6439293). 9.00 Film Nolses Off (1992). This behind-
- the-scenes comedy stars Michael Caine and Carol Burnett (S)(T) (38510309).
- 11.35 FILM Russ Meyer's Vixen (1969). Meyer's cult hit (8786580).
- Alpha Zone (R)(S) (7928930). To 6am.

Jongbus (missis) 2.55 Shopping (486467)
Payamount Comnedy Charmed
2.00 Cusinss (7038, 7200 Decirants CASA, 8.20
Researing (1948, 8.30 Aux Short Me, 6250 8.00
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Ketz (2735) 2.30 Scop (2002) 3.00 Hooperman
(7939) 3.30 Rejectand (2442) 4.00 Coox

ITV/Regions

- Anglia As Granada except: 5.35 Carloons (350)646, resuscivity, 2.200 Fam: Hearthreak Hotel, Young Charle Sorthater decides to cheer up he luchtees mum by kidnapping Bvls Presiley and bringing him back to their nun-down flamingo Star motel. Dawed Kaith meless a far first of the King but this remembe comedy feartasy born Germaling writer Chris Columbus is resistible wesh-fulfilment. (614462, 4,05 Rast Stones of the Highway Patrol (872/268), 678-818 Stones of the Highway Patrol (872/268), 678-9101 Story Chema (30317), 8,00 Echo Pont (405)
- and 5.35 Carbons (50646
- An Grassatin essetsph 8.35 Carbons (50/846).

 RTE1
 8.25 Movie Show Interviews (20/85989), 8.30 The Christmas Prisonice (14(28/85)) 8.35 A Patest of Cardos (90/800081), 2.30 Pim. The Stopper and the Ross Fairy site musics with bright-leged German Crasen as Cardenials Richard Clearbettan is a misch mediatorichy Prince but the velorism cost carbon bright-leged German Crasen as Cardenials Richard Clearbettan is a misch mediatorichy Prince but the velorism cost and the state of the carbon of
- 10.55 Melinda's Big Night In (2725106).
- 12.55 Hill Hickey and Boggs (1972). Private eye thriller (2988862). 2.55 Sweet Hostage (1975), Film drama with Martin Sheen. (8289404).
- 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (1862161).

Sub Seve the Poylla Globon (SSS70084). Net secret: 2 Net secret: (STIZZEG), \$0.00 WWF [472CH8]; \$2.00 Close USK Gold USK Gold Z00 Consensus (SSIZZER); \$2.00 Negribours 1204 Consensus (SSIZZER); \$2.00 Negribours 1205 Con

FRIDAY CHOICE.

A TWO PART biography, Arena: The Brian Epstein Story (9.05pm BBC2), is a rich portrait of the Svengali figure behind the emerging Beatles. Gay, at a time when homosexuality was still in the closet. Epstein, the middle-class son of Liverpool shop-keepers, helped broker the Swinging Sixties. When he was first appointed The Beatles' manager, he cleaned up their appearance, their on-stage performances and took them to George Martin. For a man who gave the music world so much it's a shame that his end was such a tragic one

- 6.00 GMTV (1936309). 9.25 Christmas Day in (2962187). **11.00** Percy the Park Keeper (R) (2750651). **11.35** The Forgotten Toys (R)(S) (9811564). **12.05** The Willows in Winter (R)(S)(T) (7944583). **1.30** News (T) (45083545). **1.45** The Spice Girls Live at Wembley (S)(T) (4083458). 3.00 The
- 5.45 News: Weather (T) (206019)
- **6.00 Emmerdale.** The Dingles get a Christmas miraclé, while the Windsors must endure tragedy (S)(T) (43361).
- Judy gives birth to twins (T) (1458).
- 9.30 Christmases from Hell. Here are
- 10.30 News; Weather (T) (608583) 10.40 The Godfather Part 8 Robert Duvall star in this enduring Oscar
- 2.20 Shout at the Devil (1976). This long, loud African adventure stars Lee Marvin and Roger Moore (T)

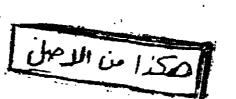
Skry Premiler

4.00 The Ef Who Didn't Believe (387) (9492), 8.00
D2 the Mighty Ducks (1995) (2877), 19.00 Berners
and Robin (1997) (2525), 12.00 An American 124
(1996) (97954, 1.20 Berry Norman 69605), 2.00
Berryan and Robin (1997) (2730), 8.00 Michael
(1996) (2700), 10.00 Juny Maguan (1996)
(37950), 2.20 The Long Kiss Goodnight (1996)
(27900), 2.20 The Ward of the Robest (1996) (19596)
4.20 - 8.00 Ef Who Didn't Beleve (1997) (27297).



SATELLITE & CABLE





TUESDAY TELEVISION

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6.00 Business Breakfast (80483). 7.00 News (T) (50667). 9.00 Sweet Valley High (R)(S) (7814716). 9.25 The Fame Game (R)(S) (7817803), 9.55 Teletubbies (S) (9071803), 10.20 News (T) (8309613).

10.30 The Nutcracker Prince (1990). Seasonal cartoon set to Tchalkovsky's music (S)(T) (1893648).

11.40 New Adventures of Superman (7132990), 12.25 Wipeout (9924613). (7152591), 12.25 Wipeout (9524613), 12.50 Weather Show (73862735), 1.00 News (53754), 1.30 Regional News (4578209), 1.40 Neighbours (97175396), 2.05 Battersea Dogs Horne (86063551), 2.35 Due South (2889532), 3.20 Noddy (R)(S) (6702735), 3.30 Casper (3232774), 3.50 Caryle (32 3.50 ChuckleVision (3252936). 4.10 Noah's Island (3191713). 4.35 Cartoon Critters (9521193). 5-00 Newsround (2085071). 5.10 It'll Never Work (8871087).

5.35 Neighbours (S)(T) (629990).

6.00 News; Weather (T) (445).

6.30 Regional News (T) (975)

7.00 Holiday: Fasten Your Seat Belt. Christmas special (S)(T) (6735).

7.30 EastEnders (S)(T) (209).

8.00 Airport at Christmas (S)(T) (5483).

8.30 Mysteries with Carol Vorderman. frue-life stories (S)(1) (4990).

9.00 News; Weather (T) (8984).

9.30 Speed (1994). Keanu Reeves stars in this thriller, with Sandra Bullock and Dennis Hopper (S)(T) (296716).

11.20 Celine Dion: These Are Special Times (S) (860025).

12.00 Film Staying Alive (1983). John Travolta stars in this sequel to Saturday Night Fever (T) (11859).

130 Sixteen Candles (1984) Molly Ringwald stars as a teenager dreaming of Mr Right (1) (93101).

3.00 News 24 (5426502). To 6am.

BBC2

7.00 The Little Polar Bear (R)(S) (6038261). 7.05 Teletubbies (5039803). 7.30 You's Treasure Hunt (R) (1974990). 7.50 Blue Peter (S)(T) (1985006). 8.15 Eek the Cat (3013613). 8.30 Tazmania (57919), **9.00** Animal Winter Warmers (S) (394209), **12.00** Tales of Caunterbury (51735), **12.30** The Simpsons (R)(S)(T) (4903087). **1.15** Rex the Runt (S)(T) [71871377). **1.25** Rex the Runt (S)(T) (71860261). **1.35** Timewatch (S)(T) (8150532), **2.25** The West (S)(T) (6869005), **3.50** News (T) (9972358).

3.55 El W El Dorado (1967). John Wayne helps drunken sheriff Robert Mitchum clean up a town (1) (53937445).

6.00 The Simpsons (S)(T) (941025).

6.25 Rex the Runt (S)(1) (273261).

6.35 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. Jake and Nog risk an intergalactic incident through an innocent attempt to lift Sisko's spirits (S)(T) (279261).

7.20 Rex the Runt (S)(T) (214803).

7.30 The Canterbury Tales. Second part of the beautifully animated film opens with the pilgrims nearing Canterbury

8.00 Food and Drink. A Christmas meal for vegetarians (S)(T) (3025).

8.30 CHOICE Two Fat Ladies. Jennifer and Clarissa cook for a polo team, then go skinny dipping. See Choice, below

9.00 Butterflies. Festive edition of the Seventies sitcom (R)(T) (2754).

9.30 CHOICE Agas and their Owners. See Choice, below (S)

10.20 A Woman Called Smith. (R)(S)(T) (177174). 10.30 Newsnight (T) (159261). 11.15 Brothers and Sisters (S) (843358).

11.55 Hidden Fortress (1958). Kurosawa's enthralling drama set during the civil wars in medieval Japan. With Toshiro Mifune. (61395377). To 215am.

ITV Granada

6.00 GMTV (1098193), 9.25 News (T) (4339174). 9.35 Tiny Toons (R)(S)(T) (1914667). 10.00 Rocky and the Dodos (R)(S) (3308358). 10.15 Art Attack Christmas Cracker (R)(S)(T) (595483).

U: The Never-ending Story U: The Next Chapter (1990). Children's adventure (S)(T) (85910551).

12.20 Granada News (T) (6770735). 12.30 News (T) (81464), 1.00 Coronation Street (R)(T) (48822). 1.30 Emmerdale (R)(S)(T) (80735), **2.00** Wheel of Fortune (S)(T) (7087), **2.30** News (T) (1419342). 2.40 Sharpe (R)(S)(T) (79608990). 4.40 Survival Special (S)(T) (5327613). 5.40 News (888716).

5.55 Granada Tonight (T) (8143006).

7.00 Emmerdale (S)(T) (1803).

7.30 The Mall (T) (377). 8.00 The Bill (T) (2629).

9.00 Catherine Cookson's Colour Blind. James and Bridget's daughter has grown up into a beautiful young woman but her skin colour and the economic depression makes it difficult for her to get a job (S)(T) (5193).

10.00 News; Weather (T) (295919).

10.15 Granada News (T) (174087).

10.25 The Things You Do for Love. Reconstructions of extraordinary love stones (7) (2723990).

11.30 In Search of Tarzan with Jonathan Ross (S)(T) (956071).

12.35 Tarzan the Magnificent 960). Gordon Scott stars (1) (360323).

2.10 The Haunted Fishtank (6859033). 2.35 Film Ernest Saves Christmas

(1988). Silly seasonal slapstick for youngsters (715755). 4.10 ITY Nightscreen (4468781). 5.00 Football League Extra (5132588). 5.55

Morning News (9406217). To 6am.

Channel 4

7.00 For Better for Worse (47193), 7.30 The Magic School Bus (53700). 8.00 The Big Breakfast (14759), 10.00 Planet Pop (64236), 10.30 Eerie, Indiana (9955280), 10.55 The Secret World of Alex Mack (R)(S) (4214822), 11.30 Moesha (5087), 12.00 Madison (46803),

12.30 The Thief of Baghdad (1940). Sabu outwits the wicked vizie Conrad Veidt, in this vintage Arabian Nights adventure (T) (40342).

2.30 Frances Bissell's Westcountry Christmas (R)(S)(T) (754). 3.00 Wine Hunt (T) (7464). 3.30 Tool Stories (T) (241). 4.00 Fifteen to One Highlights (T) (826). 4.30 Countdown (S)(T) (95:5532). 4.55 Ricki Lake (S)(T) (7841087).

5.30 Pet Rescue Awards (S)(T) (342).

6.00 Ted Viles TV. One-off comedy special about a hideous media magnate, played by Sean Cullen (T) (97025).

7.00 News; Weather (\$)(T) (134193).

7:15 FLM The Enemy Below (1957). A tense U-boat drama stamng Robert Mitchum (T) (51223280).

9.00 Last Orders. Behind-the-scenes look at a hospital to report on the toll alcohol takes on the nation's health (T) (3735).

10.00 Friends (R)(S)(T) (47532).

10.30 Eurotrash Jingle Bells, Jingle Bails. Seasonal sauce (T) (446209).

11.05 This Bloke Walks Into a Bar (T) (319716), 12.05 All Back to Mine with Paul Weller (T) (5892507), 12.40 Righteous Babes (3448675)

1.40 FIM The Desperate Hours (1955). Sadistic Humphrey Bogart and his two cronies take over the suburban home of Fredric March (114472).

3.40 Dispatches (R) (99314410). 4.05 Hornicide: Life on the Street (R)(S) (444014). **4.55** The Granny Squad (R)(S) (14344120). **5.10** Sharky and George (R) (7905304). **5.35** 2 Stupid Dogs (R)(S) (9736781), To 6am.

Channel 5

6.00 5 News and Sport (S) (6165464). 7.00 Wimzie's House (R) (6916551). 7.30 M:lkshake! (2555551), 7.35 Havakazoo (6127754). 8.00 George of the Jungle (753806). 8.30 What a Mess (7537377). 9.00 Loggerheads (7526629). 9.30 USA High (2158087). 10.00 The Gods of Olympus (9003464). 10.20 Sunset Beach (2041795). 11.10 Leeza (8413463), **11.55** Postcards (99985193), **12.00** 5 News (7531193). 12.30 Family Affairs (2152803). 1.00 Bold and the Beautiful (6915822). **1.30** Sons and Daughters (2151174). **2.00** 100 Per Cent Gold (1432754). 2.30 Good

3.30 The Christmas Gift (1986). Seasonal stush starring the late John Denver entranced by a time-warp town in the Rockies (1) (7554716).

5.20 The Roseanne Show (9038648). 6.00 100 Per Cent (S) (2367193).

6.30 Family Affairs (S)(T) (2358445).

7.00 5 News (S)(T) (1330342).

Afternoon (2106629).

7.30 Wild at Home. Wildlife documentary about the Fossil Rim Wildlife Centre in Dallas, Texas (S)(T) (2354629).

8.00 Are You Being Cheated? With Charlotte Hudson (S)(T) (1412990).

8.30 What Went Wrong? Videos of reallife disasters (S) (1431025).

9.00 Lonesome Dove. Last part of the western mini-series. The Outfit is shocked by their recent loss but continue into buffalo territory, where Gus is surrounded by hostile Indians and is wounded (T) (38585613).

10.50 Full Moon Party. Report on how Thailand has become a magnet for backpackers (S)(T) (6670795).

11.50 Leeza (1068396), 12.30 Live and Dangerous (S) (7674946). **1.10** Live and Dangerous (S) (74708410). **3.45** Asian Football Show (9516323). **4.40** Prisoner: Cell Block H (3559975), 5.30 100 Per Cent (R)(S) (7097014). To 6am.

ITV/Regions

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As Granada escept: 12.20 Anglo News and
As Granada escept: 12.20 Anglo News and
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TUESDAY CHOICE

BBC2 IS full of off-beat, upper-class types this evening, from Two Fat Ladies (8.30pm BBC2) to Agas and Their Owners (9.30pm BBC2, left). Tonight the fatties cook up Christmas lunch for a Jamaican polo team, while the latter is the sort of documentary 40 Minutes used to throw out week after week. There are folk here who use their Agas to warm their parrots, to dry their hair and so on. It's also full of interesting facts and statistics - apparently, Agas are made in Telford. So now you know.

Sky Premier 6.00 Cocom (1985) (2943) 8.00 Helo Again (1987) 45251, 10.30 Hy Assay Home (1985) (2006) 74250 Cocom (1985) 62943 2.00 The Sussistant (40 2 1986) (2007) 8.00 Helo Again (1987) (2023) 8.00 Helo Again (1987) (2023) 8.00 Helo (1982) (2023) 8.00 Heros (1984) (2007) 8.00 Heros (1984) (2008) 4.00 Heros (1984) (200

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SATELLITE & CABLE

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135 The Bit (1998/22), 12.35 The Bit (1995/22), 13.55

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11.00 The Larry Serdes Stock (84th), 1.00 Test (850th),

1.30 The Otto (8887), 2.00 Dr. hatt (44th), 2.30

Soch (2018), 3.00 Cheer

WEDNESDAY TELEVISION

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (38743), 7.00 News (T) (15217). **9.00** Sweet Valley High (R)(S) (7718588). **9.25** The Fame Game (R)(S) (7711675). **9.55** Teletubbies (S) (9975675). **10.20** News (T) (8376385).

10.30 Film Ferngully... the Last Rainforest (1992). Feature-length Raimorest (1992), 1992), ecological animation (S)(T) (1780120).

(7036762) 12.25 Wipeout (9991335). 12.50 Weather Show (S)(T) (73766507). 1.00 News (T) (18304). 1.30 Regional News (45063781). 1.40 Neighbours (S)(T) (97079168). 2.05 Battersea Dogs' (S)(T) (9/0/9168); 2.US Battersea Dogs Home (S)(T) (86967323); 2.35 Due South (S)(T) (2783304); 3.20 Noddy (8806507); 3.30 Casper (316946); 3.50 ChuckdeVision (3149410); 4.10 Get Your Own Back (2440025); 4.35 The Queen's Nose (9425965); 5.00 Newstround (S)(T)

(2052743). 5.10 Blue Peter (8775859). 5.35 Neighbours (S)(T) (577502).

6.00 News; Weather (T) (694).

6.30 Regional News (1) (946). 7.00 A Question of Sport (S)(T) (4410).

7.30 Animal Sanctuary (S)(1) (830).

8,00 The Life of Birds (S)(T) (963101). 8.50 The National Lottery: Amazing Luck Stories (S)(T) (324526).

9.00 News; Weather (T) (6507). 9.30 CHOICE Bring Me Sunshine the Heart and Soul of Eric Morecambe- See Choice, below

10.45 War and Piste (S)(T) (468217).

(S)(T) (5560052).

Mothers Do Zore Zm (S)(T) (224526).

11.55 Faces Of Islam (S)(T) (672859).

1245 That Riviera Touch (1966). Morecambe and Wise comedy (1) (456231).

1.50 News 24 (79110873). To 7am

BBC2

7.00 King Greenfingers (R) (S) (6932033). 7.05 Telefubbles (S) (5933675). 7.30 Yog's Treasure Hunt (R) (1878/62). 7.50 To Ma... to You (R) (S) (1) (8841675). 8.20 Eek the Cat (R) (3010526). 8.35 Taz-Mania (8234236), **9.00** Animal Winter Warmers (S) (312323), **12.00** The Tales of Caunterbury (5) (16385). **12.30** The Simpsons (5)(T) (4482491). **1.40** Rex the Runt (S)(T) (50617304). **1.50** Rex the Runt (T) (50613588). 2.00 Showjumping (S) (6357697). 2.50 The West (S) (T)

(4011101). 4.15 News (T) (1597491). 4.20 She Wore a Yellow Ribbon (1949), John Wayne plays a US Cavalry officer on the point of retirement in this classic John Ford western (1)

6.00 The Simpsons (S)(T) (397507).

6.25 Rex the Runt. More advantures in sticine (S)(T) (629743).

6.35 Star Trek: The Next Generation. A dust cloud caused by a crashed asteroid threatens ecological disaster

7.20 Rex the Runt (S)(T) (660385).

7.30 Beowulf. Animated version of the wonderful monster story (S)(T) (472).

8.00 Gary Rhodes' Perfect Christmas. Gary Phodes shows how to cook a three-course classic Christmas lunch with the minimum of fuss (S)(T) (8472).

8.30 Home Front. Tessa Shaw presents a special Christmas edition of the home-decorating show (S)(T) (7507).

9.00 Dad's Army (R)(T) (4149).

9.30 Goodness Gracious Me. Asian comedy sketch show (S)(T) (692323).

10.15 Louis Theroux's Weird Christmas (S)(T) (258052). 11.15 The Seven Samurai (1956). Japanese medieval adventure famousty

remade as the classic western, The

Magnificent Seven (68799930). To

ITV Granada

FilmFour 6.00 The Story of Ou Ju (1992) (1994/54), 8.00 Joy Luck Club (1993) (1930)(19), 10,30 The (1997 Hume

6.00 GMTV (1992965), 9.25 News (4233946). 9.35 Tiny Toon Adventures (1818439). 10.00 Rocky and the Dodos (717410). 10.20 Art Aftack (8201965). 10.50 The Wind in the Willows

(1995). A version of Kenneth Grahame's much-loved children's stories (S)(T) **12.20 Granada News** (T) (6674507). **12.30** News (T) (62052). **1.00** Emmerdale (60912). **1.30** Cross Wits (S) (T) (61323). 2.00 Wheel of Fortune (S)(T) (5762). 2.30 News (T) (1486014), 2.40 Sharpe (79502762), 4.40 Survival Special (S)(T)

(5394385). **5.40** News (T) (267526). 5.55 Granada Tonicht (T) (8047878).

7.00 Emmerdale (S)(T) (6878).

7.30 Coronation Street. Rita tips off the Duckworths about Alec's grand scheme. Judy goes into labour (1) (526). 8.00 Des O'Connor Tonight. Seasonal iun

with Des and guests Joe Pasquale, Norman Wisdom, Jackie Mason and Billy Pearce. Featuring music from The Spice Girls and Barry Manilow (S) (7694). 9.00 Cadfael. Derek Jacobi returns as the monk who combines a little detective work with his clerical duties, tonight

investigating a potter who has has entered the monastery (S)(T) (2304).

10.30 News; Weather (T) (635033). 10.45 Granada News (1) (909120).

10.55 The Things You Do for Love Drama about a lost love (T) (2822588).

12.00 On Thin Ice: the Tai

1.40 The World Music Awards 1998 (644960), **3.40** The Haumted Fishtank (99383540), **4.05** Nightscreen (4666328), **4.40** Cybernet (13035415), **5.05** Hurricanes (7977521), 5.30 Bugs Bunny

Babilonia Story (1990). Rachel

Crawford stars in this ice-skating biopic

Channel 4

6.00 Sesame Street (54781). 7.00 For Better For Worse (10453). 7.30 Super Trolts (21878). 8.00 Big Breakfast (93507). 10.00 Saved by the Bell (96694). 10.30 Eerie, Indiana (9859052). 10.55 Secret World of Alex Mack (4118694). 11.30

Moesha (3410), 12.00 Madison (34781). 12.30 All Dogs Go to Heaven

1989). Inventive cartoon (1) (82088439). 2.05 The Hedgehog in the Fog (R)(T) (77790897). 2.15 Pat and Mat (77770033). 2.30 Westcountry Christmas (675). 3.00 Wine Hunt (T) (2439). 3.30 Tool Stories (T) (120). 4.00 Fifteen to One Highlights (T) (255). 4.30 Countdown (T) (949304).

L55 Ricki Lake (S)(T) (7745859).

5.30 Pet Rescue Awards (T) (491). 6.00 Late Lunch Behaving Badiy Mel and Sue are joined by the Men

Behaving Badly gang (45385).

7.00 News; Weather (T) (7120). 7.30 The Bear's Tale. Documentary about

Bear (T) (168). 8.00 Brookside Christmas Special. Greg is filled with guilt (S)(T) (3168).

the making of the family animation The

8.30 The Real Holiday Show (T) (2675).

binge drinking (1) (5-472).

10.00 Frasier (R)(S)(T) (35410). 10.30 Harry Hill's Christmas Sleigh Ride (T) (11830). 11.00 Bob and Margaret (T)

MOBO Awards (R)(T) (990250). 245 When the Wind Blows

3.45 FILM I Wake Up Screaming (1941). Edgy thriller (7848637). 5.30 Sharky and George (A) (7972076).5.35 2 Stupid Dogs (2757304).5.55 Sesame Street (9973705). To 7am.

Channel 5

6.00 5 News (S) (6069236), 7.00 Wirnzie's House (R) (6810323). **7.30 Mi**kshakel (S) (2459323). **7.35** Havakazoo (6021526). B.00 George of the Jungle (R) (7432878). 8.30 What a Mess (7431149). 9.00 Loggerheads (R) (7415101). 9.30 USA High (R)(S) (2052859). 10.00 The Gods of Olympus (9907236), 10.20 Sunset Beach (S)(T) (1390007), 1130 Leeza (R)(S) 8317255). **11.55** Postcards (99889965). 12.00 5 News at Noon (S)(T) (7435965). 12.30 Family Affairs (R)(S)(T) (2056675). 1.00 Bold and the Beautiful (T) (6819694). 1.30 Sons and Daughters (2055946). 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (1336526).

2.30 Good Afternoon (S) (2093101). 3.30 FILM Home for Christmas (1990). Contrived seasonal weepie with Mickey Rooney giving a crafty performance as an

aged petty thief (T) (7458588).

5.20 The Roseanne Show (9925120). 6.00 100 Per Cent (S) (2261965).

6.30 Family Affairs (S)(T) (2252217)

7.00 5 News (S)(T) (1307014).

7.30 The Best of Pepsi. Highlights from the Pepsi Chart (S) (2241101). 8.00 Survivor. A father, mother and a tiny baby go out for a walk in winter in Oregon.

A blizzard sets in, they take a wrong turning and tragedy occurs. Amazingly, the baby survives - but why? (R)(T) (6402149). 9.00 Running Wild (1995). True-life story of the efforts of wildlife documentary maker Christine Shaye and conservationist John Varty to fight to save two orphaned leopard cubs. With Brooke Shields and

David Keith (T) (58029217). 10.40 The Movie Chart Show. British and

American box-office hits (S) (2702255). 11.15 100 Per Cent Guide to Sex (548633), 11.45 Jenny Edair. The Platinum Collection (S) (4453014). 1.00 NHL 98 Anaheim Mighty Ducks vs Colorado Avalanche (S) (34206927), **4.40** Club Class (R)(S) (81402279). **5.05** Move On Up (R)(S) (19165250), **5.30** 100 Per Cent (R)(S) (7064786). To 6am.

Hollywood Hall of Fame (5844549, 4.25 Magic Town" (647) (7740689, 6.55 Close.

Filter Four 6.00 (2006) (2006) (2006) (2007) (200

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SATELLITE & CABLE

Acrobics (4056), 9.30 Footbal (2647), 10.30 Footbal (3407), 11.30 Fastran (stern), 12.00 Acrobics (1640), 12.30 Footbal (7656), 2.30 Footbal (7656), 2.30 Footbal (7656), 2.30 Footbal (7657), 8.00 Wheeling (405), 8.00 Centre (2658), 8.30 Understood (1658), 7.20 Miga Marcel (7794), 8.00 Early (1658), 9.00 Early (1658)

3.30 Darrong MODHASS 4.30 V-Max (5056553) 5.00 Fig. 49 Stating (AVDSS28) 2.00 Fish TV 57527-90 2.30 Fish TV (5056758) 8.00 Table Fortial (5758435) 8.30 Unbellsoble (67567946) 9.00 Darrong (556495) 10.00 C/mpcs (205752) 10.30 Casses (482727) 11.30 Close

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ITV/Regions

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8.00 Francesco: Frendir World (157588), 6.46
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WEDNESDAY CHOICE

is Bring Me Sunshine - the Heart and Soul of Eric Morecambe (9.30pm BBC1, left), a stylish and impressively detached look at one Eric Bartholomew. Robbie Williams is one of the more likeable chaps currently inhabiting the pop charts, and the film diary of one year in his life, Robbie Williams: Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em (11.15pm BBC1) is full of candour and insight. Williams is from Stoke-on-Trent, and his parents are on hand to talk about their showman son.

Sky Premier 8.06 Casper: a Spirited Begraving (1657) (677-3) 8.06 Casper: a Spirited Begraving (1657) (677-3) 8.06 And in King Arthurs Court (1659) (1649) 8.00 Casper: a Spirited Begraving (1657) (16472, 2.00 The Angel of Permaykany Arthur (1658) (1658) 4.00 Casped (1659) (6597) 4.00 Casped (16597) 4.00 Casped (16597 BY PAR and away the best profile today

EDURÍSZI), ÁJDO - 8.00 Násjar Payne (1986) 4543-9.

Sky Movile Max

8.00 Back to the Plants of the Apea (1974) (19897).

2.30 Deneyk Petum to Snowy Piter (1989)
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Follow Piter (19 4.05 - 8.00 A SWICH IN TIME (MRT) \$669034 \$\$\text{Sky Cline(\$\text{P138}\$)}\$
4.00 The Genal Dictator* (\$40) (7300029) 6.00 The Parket Cause (\$45) \$648049, 8.00 The Parket Sprince Agent (\$74) \$678039 \$0.00 Bactenits (\$73) \$678039 \$1.00 Bactenits (\$75) \$679030271 \$2.45

9.00 The Confrontation, Story of a man's

(4762). **11.30** Beg to Differ (705101). **12.05** Comedy Lab (3429786). **12.35**

(1986). Moving nuclear-attack carbon (T)

(9706540). 5.55 News (9473989). To 6am.

Godzák Radó Again (959) (280392).

Siky Ome

8.06 Garnal M2N49th 8.45 Garnes (42940th 8.30
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SUNDAY TELEVISION

BBC1

- 6.30 Daffy Duck (8106759). 6.35 The Hills Are Alive: the Sound of Music Phenomenon (3785391), 7,20 Match of the Day (8643223), 8,30 Breakfast with Frost (48285), 9.30 Advent Hope (9445198). 10.10 Life of Birds (7717198).
- 11.00 Fill Bless This House (1972) Film spin-off from the TV sitcom with Sid James (T) (84372).
- 12.30 News; Weather for the Week Ahead (T) (73819643), 12.35 EastEnders (R)(S)(T) (6472556).
- 2.00 The Sound of Music (1965). The much loved musical is full of great songs. With Julie Andrews in stereo (S)(T) (99640020).
- **4.45 Children of the New Forest.** (S)(T) (787933). **5.15** News (T) (3902933). **5.35** Regional News and Weather (613136).
- 5.40 Sonos of Praise (S)(T) (276285)
- 6.20 Antiques Roadshow Unwrapped Anniversary special (S)(T) (925049).
- 7:10 Starring Animals. A look at animals which have starred in films, from Lassle to Babe (S)(T) (752575).
- 8.00 The Royal Variety Performance at Christmas. HRH the Prince of Wales attends an evening of glittering entertainment from the Lyceum Theatre Landon (S)(T) (378372).
- 10.30 News: Weather (1) (221933).
- 10.45 CHOIGE Everyman. Story of the woman who disguised herself as a man, became Pope and reigned for two years until she gave birth to a baby. See Choice, below (S)(T) (227407).
- 11.35 FILM Scrooged (1988). A sick update of A Christmas Carol, with Bill Murray (S)(T) (736020).
- 1.05 The Night They Raided Minsky's (1968). Amish lass Britt Ekland invents striptease (876686).
- 2.45 Joins BBC News 24 (6211599).

BBC2

- 6.05 Dusty Ermine (1938). Rollicking British crime melodrama, with Ronald Squire (T) (7942681).
- 7.30 Teletubbies (8291469), 8.10 Wharri Bam! Strawberry Jam! (3:50:98). 8.25 The Artbox Bunch (3:17:681). 8.40 Eek the Cat (3132196), **3.50** Fievel's American Tails (8384285). **9.15** Fievel's American Tails (7891965). **9.40** Queen's Nose (1963933). 10.10 Wayne Marifesto (7279204). 10.35 Grange Hill (9932339). 11.00 Sort It (4475407), 11.25 Grange Hill (3678827), 11.50 O Zone (3100662). **12.05** The Simpsons (9071575). **12.30** Robot Wars (81020). **1.00** Top Gear Rally (22440). **1.30** Sunday Grandstand (5079952). **1.35** Ski Sunday (8132136). **2.20** Basketball (772391). **4.15** Showjumping (6866846). **5.00** Call of the Wild (6504469).
- 5.45 FILM Willy Works and the Chocolate Factory (1971). Gene Wilder stars as the sweet magnate in this candy-coloured version of Roald Dahl's fantasy (T) (50804952).
- **7.25 Star Trek: Voyager.** Sci-fi drama series (S)(1) (837730).
- 8.10 Earth Story. Aubrey Manning traces the history of life on earth (S)(T)
- 9.00 Ray Mears's World of Survival. Ray joins the Innu at their winter hunting camps (S)(T) (3204).
- 9.30 Clarkson. Talk show, with Jeremy Clarkson and guests (S)(T) (162846).
- 10.10 The Car's the Star. The glories of the Lotus 7 (S)(T) (966391).
- 10.30 Tx. Story of how the American soap Metrose Place is used as a home for modern art (S)(T) (202198).
- 11.20 Sugar HIB (1995). Harlem drug dealer Wesley Snipes has a change of heart in this bleak drama (S)(T)
- 1.25 The Shakedown (1959). Hazel Court stars in this blackmail B-movie (T) (7987599). To 2.55am.

SUNDAY CHOICE

TTV, left) benefits from the fact that it's an

adaptation of a Daphne du Maurier story. It also has an unusual historical setting -

CARLTON'S Frenchman's Creek (8nm

the Glorious Revolution, when William and Mary succeeded to the throne of England Everyman (10.45pm BBC1)

goes further back, to the ninth century, when an English woman pulled off one of

as a man, she tricked her way into the Vatican and reigned for two years - or so

the greatest con tricks in history. Dressed

ITV Granada

- **6.00 GMTV** (95681). **8.00** Diggit (3756440). **9.25** House of Toons (7884575). **9.50** Extreme Ghostbusters (9030556). 10.15 Disney Cartoon (3387865). 10.30 Father Christmas and the Missing Reindeer (68681), 11.00 Christmas in Omagh (79440). 12.30 Soccer Sunday (85846). **1.00** News; Weather (21574136). **1.10** Jonathan Dimbleby (5029943). **2.00** Granada News (68849575). **2.05** Sunday Supplement 86021575). 2.35 Wild North (4482339). 3.05 Caprice (1708448). 3.30 Murder, She Wrote (38681). 4.30 Coronation Street (67310). 5.30 Cartoon (828730). 5.40 Granada News and Weather
- 5.45 News: Weather (T) (847865).
- 6.00 South Bank Show. Career profile of Petula Clark (S)(T) (93865).
- 7.00 Dog Squad (T) (4339).
- 7.30 Coronation Street. The Duckworths push their luck with Alec who sees a face from the past (T) (407).
- 8.00 CHOICE Frenchman's Creek. Dramatisation of Daphne du Maurier's classic story of love and adventure. Tara Fitzgerald stars as the headstrong Lady Dona, who becomes involved with French pirate, Anthony Delon. See Choice, below (S)(T) (7533).
- 10.00 Cold Feet. David and Karen invite the other two couples to a black-tie charity dinner. Feeling out of place, Jenny gets drunk and has a fist fight with David's boss (S)(T) (9730).
- 11.00 News. (T) (858136), 11.15 Sermon from St Albion's (S) (115933). 11.25 Hale and Pace (T) (679556). **11.55** Sunday Night (S) (965440). **12.55** In Bed with Medinner (S) (1043421).
- 1.35 The Night of the Generals (1967). Peter O'Toole acts crazy in this imposing wartime drama
- **4.10 Not Fade Away** (S) (7636217). **5.05** ITV Nightscreen (7046605). **5.30** Morning News (46537). To 6am.

Sky Premier
6.00 Ferrmes Faziks (6517), 6.30 D3 the Migray
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1997) [244] 41.30 The Earth (1999) (8259), 21.30
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Channel 4

- **6.10 Camberwick Green** (2640001), **6.30** Frootie Tooties (3654594), **6.40** Dog City (4714204). 7.10 Home to Rent (5012136). **7.35** Max Bear's Christmas (8909643). **8.05** Johnny Bravo (7341372) **8.35** Sister Sister (6009579). **9.05** Wise Up (8898865), **9.35** Planet Pop (1978865), **10.00** The Waltons (33556). 11.00 Hollycaks (7943198). 12.10 Late Lunch with Mel and Sue (5734515). 1.15 Football Italia (70728353).
- 3,30 The Mark of Zorre (1940). Tyrone Power stars as the legendary California avenger, top by day and firebrand by night, in this vintage swashbuckler (T) (658056).
- 5.20 The Four Feathers (1939). Archetypal ripping yam sees John Clements redeeming himself in the Sudan campaign (T) (87354469)
- 7.30 Joe Public. Investigative reporter Joe Layburn helps a garage licensee to investigate how Esso acts in light of its success on the forecourts (1) (579).
- 8.00 FILM Toys (1992). Endearing fantasy set in a high-gloss, low-tech toy factory run by giddy heir Robin Williams. With Joan Cusack, Michael Gambon, Robin Wright (T) (21156778).
- 10.15 The Outsiders with Nick Hancock. Nick Hancock follows the progress of the Iran soccer team during this year's World Cup (T) (840136).
- 11.15 The Truth about Art (1) (473049).
- 12.20 Trojan Eddie (1995). Stephen Rea is unhappily in hock to Richard Harris, the bullying leader of a
- Tyrone Power stars in this turid drama shot like a black-and-white bad dream

2.20 Film Nightmare Alley (1947).

4.30 Token King (FI)(S) (3338042). **5.30** Sharky and George (7034860). **5.35** 2 Stupid Dogs (9872537). To 6am.

SATELLITE & CABLE

6.00 Sports Univided 46001, 1000 Ruppy Union. Update Beim v Sassansi Spirito, 8.00 Ampty Union. Ship 46778, 9.00 Saturday Fight Nght 85001, 10.00 Goden on Sunday (15568, 12.00 Ruppy) unon Update Behm v Sassansi 46799, 1.30 Gastin World Sport Sportal (1779, 2.00 Superion.) Alv North (2559, 2.00 Fird Super Sunday Americk v Lette (603627), 8.30 NFL Double-Neutrie (905656, 12.30 Death Vollycal (5679), 1.00 Schools Footbal (Charantok v Durdee Uhr (64568, 2.00 Sports) Footbal (Charantok v Letter (64568) Sports) Footbal (Charantok v Letter (64568) Sports) Footbal (Charantok v Letter (64568) Sports) Footbal (15668) Sports) Footbal (15668)

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Channel 5

- **6.00 Virgin Gardeners** (7169285). **6.30** Havakazoo (4546020). **7.00** Dappledown Farm (6989407), 7.30 Milkshakel (2528407), 7.35 Wimzie's House (6171575). 8.05 The Best of First on Five (7340730). 8.35 The Price of at - What's the Story? (6687846). 9.00 Stickin' Around (7584285). 9.30 Wishbone (9346488). 10.30 Sister Said (7580469). 11.00 Daria (8715952). **11.30** Singled Out (8716681). **12.00** The Mag (5) (58279865). **1.10** 5 News (89131575). **1.20** Movie Chart Show (31407371). 1.50 Exclusive (3926846). 2.30 Family Affairs Omnibus (56383875).
- darkness kidnap Ken Marshall's bride-to-be in a sword-and-sorcery
- 7.00 We Are Family. Last of the series
- 7.30 Serious Money. Becky Anderson and Mark Jeffries present advice on making the most of your cash (S) (2310285).
- 9.00 Lonesome Dove, Second part of the western saga sees the cattle-drive continuing towards the plains of Montana. Call and Gus meet an old enemy from the Texas Rangers. Robert Duvali, Tommy Lee Jones and Anjelica Huston star (T) (58181001).
- 10.40 The Cornedy Store. Stand-up cornedy at London's Cornedy Store, with lan Stone, Rhona Cameron, Dave Fulton and Geoff Boyz (2871339).
- 11.15 Sports Talk with Steve Scott (4064597). 11.45 Ice Hockey - NHL 98 Dallas Stars vs Detroit Red Wings (31099556), **4.40** Tibs and Fibs (81564063), **5.05** Move On Up (19234334), **5.30** Serious Money

- 4.45 Krull (1983). The forces of sage set on a distant planet (T) (14839662).
- examining changes in the traditional concept of the nuclear family (S)(T)
- 8.00 Paradise in Peril. Film about the wildlife thriving on the riches brought by ocean currents to the Galapagos Islands (1) (6564933).

- 200 Big Brank (\$535407). 235 Bigles Seven (72044), 8.30 Bigles Seven (725965), 8.30 Dr Who Chribus (902/204). 400 Files: Bigless This Never' (\$8725, 902/204). 400 Files: Bigless This Never' (\$8725, Format 1V sector spin-off with new neighbours Bary Scot and Jarve Whateled spoing Sid James' plans for a quiet bis (\$872593, 3.00 The \$91 Chribus (\$8000045) 5.25 Fishing Damp (\$2404546), 5.25 Some Mothers Do her Em (\$542861, 7.00 Dach Aumy (\$95397), 7.50 Only Foots and Homas (\$670695), 9.25 The Sudent Phrice (\$058035), 11.20 Ministr (\$872964), 12.25 The Life (\$953203, 135 Only when I Landy (\$95044, 14.8 The Deader Line (\$873505), 2.40 2.00 Shopping with Sciencistics (\$275975).
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 10.30 Chees (2229, 10.00 Dressing for Besides,
 88108, 10.30 The Lamy Sanders Store (6838), 12.00
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 50385, 3.30 Nightsand (88573, 4.00 Closs

ITV/Regions

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5125, 2.30 A Spain of Colour (914) 3.00 Murder,
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Cateodaria, 15.50 Angla (1997), 15.50
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- The Dublines in Cerminary Especialists, Laure Lawres (1272-136), 2-30 Sunday Sport Seriem, 4-45 Movie Show Instrument (2772-179, 4-35 Dhaded World (1354-160), 8-30 Euro News (1352-179), 4-35 Dhaded World (1354-160), 8-30 Euro News (1352-179), 8-30 Seriem Street (4042-1394), 2-30 The Blobs (1964-160), 2-30 Europe (1354-179), 2-30 Europe (135

MONDAY TELEVISION

Film Four

** PERSET-CASE**
6.00 The Englishman Who West up a Hil but Carne
clows a Moursain (1995) (280030) 8.00 Perty Gri (1995)
6.349827) 14.00 The Last Schutzion (1994) (1994-98)
12.00 Karra Sutra a Tale of Low (1996) (107034) 1.50
Yida Sanganoo See (1993) (20235) 3.23 - 6.00 po.
186 and vidorage (1993) (20235) 3.25

les and velocique (1989; places002).

Sky Ome

8.09 Hour of Power (1975); 200 Burris in the Night
(1748); 7.30 Street Sharins (8-224, 8.00 Double
Dragon (500); 8.30 Burris of Re224, 8.00 Double
Dragon (500); 8.30 Burris of Re224, 8.00 Double
Dragon (500); 8.30 Burris of Re224, 8.00 Dress Therm
(8048); 11.00 World Wreafing (1948); 9.1.20 Just Kirchen
(8058); 12.00 Just Kindeng (1948); 9.1.20 Just Kirchen
(8030); 12.00 Just Kindeng (1948); 9.1.20 Just Kirchen
(8030); 12.00 Just Kindeng (1948); 9.1.20 Just Kirchen
(8030); 12.00 Just Kirchen
(8030); 11.00 The New Advertures of Superman (1958);
2.00 Beenry HSL, 1920; 1674(3, 3.00 Gust); 4577(3, 3.00
The Shrusors (1759); 200 King of the Hil (6573); 230
King of the Hil (1953); 8.00 Earth Final Cardiac (1950);
8.00 When Good Times (50 Bed (1957); 8.00 Mage:
Secress Revealed 4 (8075); 11.00 Souch Past, 62844
11.30 Former Kinglin (1962); 12.20 Table from the
Chyrt (1935); 8.00 Marthenter (2844); 2.00 - 8.00
Ling Pay (1974); 8878402.

- 6.00 Business Breakfast (95315), 7.00 News (99889). 9.00 Sweet Valley High (7847044). 9.25 Fame Game (7840131). 9.55 Teletubbies (9004131). 10.20 News (8405841).
- 10.30 FILM An American Tail: Fievel Goes West (1991). Cute cartoon comedy (S)(T) (1826976).
- **11.40 New Adventures of Superman** (7772518). **12.25** Wipeout (9020841). **12.50** Weather (73895063). **100** News (92976). 1.30 Regional News (45109537). 1.40 Neighbours (97108624). 2.05 Battersea Dogs' Home (86003179), 2.35 Due South (2812860), 3.20 Noddy (8735063). 3.30 Enchanted Lands (3883044). **3.40** Casper (3289082). **4.00** Bodger and Badger (1109518). **4.15** Alvin and the Chipmunks (6686622). **4.40** Goosebumps (2505247). 5.00 Newsround (2198599). 5.10 Blue Peter (8804315).
- 5.35 Neighbours (S)(T) (184570).
- **6.00 News; Weather** (T) (624).
- 6.30 Regional News (T) (976).
- 7.00 This is Your Life (S)(T) (1570).
- 7.30 Here and Now (S)(T) (860).
- 8.00 EastEnders (S)(T) (9686). 9.00 News; Weather (1) (3537).
- 9.30 The Clampers at Christmas. Will the parking men succumb to the spirit of Christmas? (S)(T) (48082).
- 10.00 FILM Nightwatch (1994). Pierce Brosnan stars as a UN agent in this
- Alistair MacLean adventure (T) (600421). 1L35 They Think It's All Over (I)
- (B13570)L 12:10 HIM Uncommon Valor (1983). Gene Hackman hires some Vietnam rans to find Pows in this gritty action
- film with a message (T) (684803) 1.50 Joins BBC News 24 (45029613). To 6am.

medieval writers tell us.

- 7.00 Wiggly Park (R)(S) (6078889), 7.05 Teletubbies (S) (5062131). 7.30 Yogis Treasure Hunt (A)(S) (1914518). 7.50 Blue Peter (S)(T) (8970131). **8.20** Eek the Cat (R)(S) (3149082). **8.35** Taz-Menia (8363792). 9.00 Animal Winter Warmers (S) (2342266). **12.30** The Simpsons (S) (T) (4528247). **1.40** Timewatch (R)(S)(T) (8180773). **2.30** The West (S)(T) (2342605). **3.55** News (9904957).
- 4.00 The Horse Soldiers (1959). John Wayne and William Holden square up in solid Western (T) (97118537).
- 5.55 Magic Meteorology. (S)(T) (136334).
- 6.00 The Simpsons. (S)(T) (413995). 6.25 CHOICE Rex the Runt. Arimated adventures with the Rex and his plasticine friends. (S) (T) (738841). See Choice, below
- 6.35 Sliders. Sci-fi drama (S)(T) (750889).
- 7.15 GHOIGE Rex the Runt. See Choice, below (S)(T) (692860).
- 7.30 CHOICE The Canterbury Tales. Three-part animated version of Chaucer's classic. See Choice, below (S)(T) (402).
- 8.00 Top Gear Blood, Salt and Tears Tiff Needell tells the story of the world land speed record. (S)(T) (8860).
- 8.30 University Challenge (S)(T) (7995).
- 9.00 Waiting for God. Sitcom set in a retirement home (R)(S)(T) (137421).
- 9.50 Funny Women. Stephanie Cole of Waiting For God and Tenko talks about her career (S)(1) (989889).
- 10.20 A Woman Called Smith. (R)(S)(T) (665082). 10.30 Newsnight (T) (614841).
- 1145 Storyville Moon over Broadway Carol Burnett makes her stage comeback (S)(T) (306228).
- 12.50 Throne of Blood (1957). Kurosawa's evocative adaptation of Mecbeth in which startling imagery replaces the language of the original (731445). To 240am.

MONDAY CHOICE

Animations, Rex the Runt (6.25pm and

rather less care and attention has been spent on the script. The Canterbury

Tales (7.30pm BBC2) obviously suffers from no such deficiency. The pilgrims are modelled out of Plasticine, but their tales are designed in the mish-mash of styles

we learnt to love in Shakespeare - the Animated Tales (another product of

Moscow's Christmas Films).

THE LATEST project from Aardman

7.15pm BBC2, left), is disappointing. The Plasticine animation is fantastic, but

ITV Granada

- **6.00 GMTV** (1021421). **9.25** News (T) (4362402). **9.35** Tiny Toons (R)(S)(T) (1947995). 10.00 Rocky and the Dodos (R)(S) (3331686). 10.15 Art Attack Christmas Cracker (R)(S)(I) (7232773).
 - 10.40 Digby, the Biggest Dog in the World (1973). So-so children's cornedy with Jim Dale (T) (14108709).
 - 12.20 Granada News (T) (6703063). 12.30 News (T) (20686). 1.00 Coronation Street (R)(T) (87044). 1.30 Cross Wits (S)(T) (29957). **2.00** Wheel of Fortune (S)((5150), **2.30** News (T) (1515570), **2.40** Sharpe (R)(S)(T) (79648518), **4.40** Survival Special (S)(T) (5423841). **5.40** News; Weather (T) (376624).
 - 5.55 Granada Tonight (T) (8176334).
 - 7.00 Emmerdale (S)(T) (6266).
 - 7.30 Coronation Street (T) (228).
 - 8.00 The BEL (1) (7082).
 - 9.00 Catherine Cookson's Colour Blind. Adaptation of Cookson's nove set in the years between The First World War and the Depression. With Niamh Cusack and Tony Armetrading
 - 10.00 Clive James on TV (S) (565841).
 - 10.35 News; Weather (T) (767082).
 - 10.50 Granada News (T) (16078f).
 - 11.00 Lockerbie. Relatives of the 270 people killed in the Lockerbie disaster talk about the impact of the tragedy (1) (97421). 12.00 III Mr Destiny (1990). James Belushi has another shot at life in this
 - antasy comedy (S)(T) (56358) 2.00 Football League Extra (7198700). 3.05 Cub@Vision (S) (9872803).
 - 3.45 The Capture (1950). Minor 5.15 Soundtrax (S) (1222483), 5.30 Box Office America (R) (9842396), 5.55 News (9502445). To 6.00am.
 - Sky Premier

 8.00 Superir 1589 (544150, 8.05 Al Doys Go
 to Hasses 1 1690) (5485002) 18.00 The Wilches
 1980) (84808, 12.00 Superir 1684 (253715)
 2.05 Al Doys Go I Hasses I 1686) (54500 Hasse
 18 be Home for Christma (666) (1650, 8.00 The
 Waches (1690) (2696) 4.00 Marvin Room (1696)
 6812, 48.00 Get Shorty (1696) (80537, 14.46
 7.686 (1696) (2696) 4.33 Aca of Leve (1696)
 (16077) 3.25 8.00 Crackwinck (1694) (2233199) (19307), 3.25 - 4.00 Cractorpick (1934) (2233990).

 Sicy Microbialists.

 8.00 in Your Widese Creams (1891) (8072), 2.30 The Christmes Las (1987) (8072). 3-30 Louesthack (1936) (1937). 3-30 Louesthack (1936) (1937). 3-30 Louesthack (1936). 3-30 Louesthack (1936). 3-30 Louesthack (1936). 3-30 Hotologia, 8.00 Lovesthack (1936) (2234). 200 Theodore Plan (1932) (1934). 3-30 Lovesthack (1936) (2234). 3-30 Lovesthack (1936) (2234). 3-30 Lovesthack (1936) (2324). 3-30 Lovesthack (1936) (2324). 3-30 Lovesthack (1936) (2325).

STREAM OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

Channel 4

- 6.00 Sesame Street (11353). 7.00 Ovide (86315), 7.30 Magic School Bus (R)(S) (98150). **8.00** Big Breakfast (S)(1) (77179). 10.00 Saved by the Bell (S)(T) (70266). 10.30 Eeria, Indiana (S)(T) (9995808). **10.55** The Secret World of Alex Mack (R) (S) (4247150). **11.30**
- Moesha (S)(T) (7112). 12.00 Madison 12.30 FILM The Bishop's Wife (1947). Beguing romantic fantasy with Cary Grant, Loretta Young (1) (85792).
- 2.30 Frances BisselFs Westcountry
 Christmas (R)(S)(T) (805). 3.00 Wine
 Hunt (T) (9599). 3.30 Tool Stories (T)
 (150). 4.00 Friteen to One Highlights (T)
 (957). 4.30 Countdown (T) (9548860).
- 4.55 Montel Williams (S)(T) (7874315).
- 5.30 Pet Rescue Awards. (S)(T) (421).
- 6.00 Roseanne. (R)(S)(T) (334).
- 6.30 Hollycaks. (T) (686). 7.00 News; Weather. (1) (4808).
- 7.30 Undercover Britain Drink Drivers. Video diary. (570). 8.00 The Iceberg Cometh. Chronicing the fraught relationship between man and
- icebergs. (R)(S)(T) (5624). 9.00 Brookside Christmas Special-Triple-length episode (S)(T) (7976).
- 10.30 IIII Don Juan Delitarco (1995). Johnny Depp thinks he's Don Juan. Romantic whimsy with Marlon Brando. (T) (27993402).
- 12:15 FIM Arizona Dream (1993). Johnny Depp as a New Yorker lured to Arizona by his Cadillac-dealing uncle (Jerry Lewis), where he falls for older woman Faye Dunaway. (1) (35672174).
- 2.50 Woman in the Window (1945). Viritage melodrama. (T) (453377). 4.40 The Real World (R) (13099613). 5.05

Sharky and George (R) (7929984) 5.35 2 Stupid Dogs (R) (S) (9103880), 5.55 Sesame Street (9002261). To 700am.

SATELLITE & CABLE Football League (85694, 12.00 Aurotics (85334, 12.30 Weekend (1757), 1,00 Football Special (18598, 2.30 Sporesh Football (25698, 4.30 V-Mac (201), 8,00 Mer Power (355), 8,00 Certie (5698), 8,36 Weekend (2555, 100 Football (70 Faifat) Athlatic v Auton Villa (2555354, 90.55 Certie (25570, 13.00 Football League (6595), 11.30 V-Mac, Myrrig, 18,00 Certie (2589494, 12.35 Monday Aght Football (544694, 2.35 Football League Periory (77)(27), 3,55 Centre (460/5025), 3,30 Cone Film:Foser 8.00 Fried Green Emaioes at the Whistle Stop Cale (850) (7778688) 8.30 Life is Sweet (850) (8507879, 48.00 Melect (935) 85982677 (2.30 Yroom (936) 8794494, 1.28 Flumb (pin to Volume (950) 62754909, 1.00 Fry (953) 825909, 4.43 - 6.00 The Firements Ball (956) 4480494 ITTOTA, SAS Contre (460/SIZS), 3.50 Close
STAY SPORTS 2
7.00 Aerobias (3354/12), 7.30 Resing (335/SIZT),
8.00 Wind Sprins (2246/SIS, 8.30 Beach Volleybol
four (227976), 8.00 Pool (728705), 7.200 Squast
(336771, 100 HZD), 533777, 1.30 Beach
Volleybol (357267), 2.00 Pool 856579, 3.00
Footbal Lappus (2575527, 9.00 Repty Vision
(3587367), 2.00 Pool 856577, 9.00 Word
Wordsharp, 2275527, 9.00 Repty Vision
(3587365, 2.00 Repty John Stay Vision
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(3587365, 3.00 Repty John Sprins
(3587366, 3.00 Repty Sky Sports 3 12.09 NFL Double-header (45-92773; 6.00 World Windowfley (5679500); 6.30 V-Max (6571085); 7.00 Fish TV - Tarry Dien Outdoors (7500857); 7.30 Fish TV (5079014]; 8.00 Squash (5270898); 8.00 Sky Sports 1 7.00 Footbal Special (10515) 8.20 Racing News 8758, 9.00 Asrobias (8370, 9.30 World Spor 72500, 9.00 Sampli Footbal (8588), 1000

Channel 5

- Milkshakel (S) (2595179). 7.35 Havakazoo (R)(S) (6150082) 8.00 George of the Jungle (R) (7561334) 8.30 What-a-Mess (7560605) 9.00 Loggerheads (R) (7551957) 9.30 USA High (R)(S) (2181315). 10.00 The Gods of Olympus (9036792). 10.20 Sunset Beach (S)(T) (8746583). 11.10 Leeza (R)(S) (8437063). 12.00 5 News at Noon (S)(T) (7564421). 12.30 Family Affairs (S)(T) (2185131). 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (S)(T) (6948750). **1.30** Sons and Daughters (2184402), **2.00** 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (1465082), **2.30** Good Afternoon (S) (2139957).
- 3.30 Babycakes (1989). Fat mortuary attendant Ricki Lake sets her sights at the man of her dreams. (S)(T)
- 5.20 The Roseanne Show. (9061976).
- 6.00 100 Per Cent. (S) (2390421). 6.30 Family Affairs. (S)(T) (2381773).
- 7.00 5 News. (S)(T) (1436570). 7.30 Wild at Home. Film about the Royal Bird of Britain - the swan. (S)(T) (2387957).
- 8.00 Floyd Uncorked. Keith's slurps his way through the last of the series. (S)(T) 8.30 Weather Front. Will we have a white
- Christmas this year? Experts give their views (S)(T) (1464353). ome Dove. Third part of the miniseries about the great American frontier in the late 19th-century. Gus tries to comfort
- the devastated Lorena and is later reunited with his beloved Clara. (T) (38681841). 10.50 Lap Dancer (1995). Elizabeth Wagner pays the bills by stripping off in a seedy club. With Arthur Emmett
- 12.15 NFL American Football Live; Miami Dolphins vs Denver Broncos (S) (33431377), 4.40 Prisoner Cell Block H (1169713). 5.30 100 Per Cent (R)(S) (7020342). To 6.00am.

Paramount Comedy Charmel 200 Carless (269, 7.30 Periods 6752, 8.00 Periods (275, 8.00 Periods 6753, 11.00 Periods (175, 8.00 Periods 6753, 11.00 Periods 6751, 11.00 Periods (175, 8.00 Periods 6753, 11.00 Periods 6751, 11.00 Periods (175, 8.00 Periods 6751

ITV/Regions

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 As Granada excepti 12.20 Argie Nees
 6703083. L00 Drossars 67044, 2.35 Argia
 Ners 6293696. 6.00 Beades Hot Stole (6062).
 6.25 Argia News and Weather (6076). 2.00 Nationalist
 Pootbal Longue Enter (76076). 2.00 Nationalist
 Pootbal Longue Enter (79776). 2.00 Catanistan
 (720338, 2.46 Film: The Capture' \$78377). 5.25
 Corrossins Street (7022025). **6.00 5 News and Sport** (S) (6198792), **7.00** Wimzie's House (R) (6956179), **7.30**
 - 6.30 Castrie (604, 10.50 Border News (1607577)
 Constraint (604, 10.50 Border News (1607577)
 As Grasseds estoepts 9.30 Central News
 6279593 22.20 Central News (6700000, 1.00
 6270 Point (67044, 2.35 Central News) (6809680,
 6.00 Bondet Hot Stote (40040), 6.25 Central
 Ness and Wester (66793), 8.30 Central News
 and Wester (760793), 8.30 Architect (122383),
 As Grasseds estoepts 12.20 Headines (6909686,
 6.00 Blauche From is Right (720, 6.30 North
 Dright (680968), 6.35 Relations (64097), 90.50
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 6.25 Water Bright (680968), 6.00 Bably Man (40047),
 6.25 Water Bright (680968), 4.35 Firm The Copture*
 (778077), 6.25 Connection Street (7023646), 7.40
 RTE1
 7.30 The Christines Presence (70236468), 7.40

 - CONTROL 200 Frozbal Lague Evis (1873), 2.00 Cascinan 200 Frozbal Lague Evis (1873), 2.00 Cascinan (1875), 2.35 First The Capture' (1873), 2.25 Correlator Street (1822), 2.50 Neuroli (1875), 2.55 Correlator Street (1822), 2.50 Neuroli (1875), 2.55 Correlator Street (1822), 2.50 Neuroli (1875), 2.55 Correlator (1882), 2.50 Neuroli (1882



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SUM, YOUNG COMMISS NEWS AND VIOLENCE (CLASS).

TYPE TO SECURITY SECURITY SECURITY SEASONS AND VIOLENCE PROVIDED S. 2.85 North East News House PROCESS 2.25 North East News (12360), 6.00 North East Subject 68609, 10.50, North East News and Violence (1007).

SCOTLANC WALES

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5.10 Sale of Sec. 10

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SATURDAY RADIO

RADIO 1 (97.6-99.8MHz FM) 7.90 Mark Goodier. 10.00 is Moyles. 1.00 Lisa (Anson. 3500 Radio 1's R 'n' B Chart. 5.00 Judge Jules. 7.00 Danny Rampling - Lovegroove Dance Party. 9.00 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show. 12.00 Radio 1 Reggae Dancehall Nite. 2.00 Essential Mix on Tour. 4.00 -

6.30 Annie Nightingale. (88-90.2MHz FM) 6.00 Mo Dutta. 8.05 Brian Matthew. 10.00 Steve Wright. 1.00 What's the Bleeding Time?. 1.30 Love 40 - New Balls Please. 2.00 Alan Freeman. 3.30 Johnnie Walker. 5,30 Paul Gambaccini. 7.00 Reading Music. 8.00 Bee Gees in Concert. 9.00 Sweet Soul Radio 2 10.00 Bob Harris. 1.00 Lynn Parsons. 4.00

7.00 Mo Dutta. RADIO 3 (90.2-92.4MHz FM) **6.00** On Air. 9.00 CD Review. 12.00 Private Passions. See Pick of the Day. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert (R) 2.00 Best of 3.

3.00 Spitalfields Festival 4.45 Debussy. 5.00 Jazz Record Requests. 6.00 And His Mother Called Him

∭. **30** Brahms. 7.00 Opera on 3. Live from Sadier's Wells, London, the Royal Opera's new production of Smetana's popular Bohemian village comedy. Sung in Czech. introduced by James Naughtie. Soile Isokoski, soprano (Marenka). Jorma Silvasti, tenor (Jenik), lan Bostridge, tenor (Vasek), Franz Hawlata, bass (Kecal), Royal Opera Chorus, Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden/Bernard Haitink. Act 1. See Pick of the Day. 8.30 Interval. As a rebuilt Royal Opera House rises in Covent

SKY PREMIER

6.00 Magic in the Water (1995) (52277).

Stormchaser - Revenge of the Twister (1998) (44890). 12,00 Magic in the Water

(83703). **4.00** Stormchaser - Revenge of Figure (1998) (98235548). **5.45** First F. (1996) (17308906). **7.30** p:review

(84044). See Pick of the Day. 10,00 Day-

light (1996) (649884). 11.55 Diabolique (1996) (920161). 1.45 Come See The Par-

6.00 Seasons of the Heart (1994) (33451). 7.30 Tom Between Two Lovers (1979) (87432), 9.30 Too Close to Home (1997)

(91529). **1.00** Seasons of the Heart (1994)

(84093). 3.00 Torn Between Two Lovers

1990, 5.00 Too Close to Home

Loving It (1995) (77068). 8.30 Action

Heroes (4451). 9.00 Twelve Monkeys

(76342426). 1.25 Die Hard 2 (1990)

th.00 The Lineup (1958) (8709068).

12.30 Sherlock Holmes and the Secret

Christ Superstar (1973) (9926161). 4.00 The Yellow Canary (1944) (7507635). 6.00

Weapon (1942) (2667161). 2.00 Jesus

Abandon Ship (1957) (9840797). 8.00

Crimes and Misdemeanors (1989) (9645242). 10.00 Ordinary People (1980)

186944548), **12.05** The Rainbow (1989)

(709-972). 2.30 Underwater! (1955)

(99:59469). **5:15** Close.

6.00 Gunbuster (3386

FILMFOUR

2.2). 4.10 Killer's Kiss (1955)

(5943575). 2.00 Hollywood Hall of Fame

6.00 Godzilats Revenge (1969) (3493258). 7.30 Gunbuster (5811600). 8.00 The Man

without a Face (1993) (2972155). 10,00

Black Christmas (1975) (8195616), 12.00

Benny's Video (1992) (1040662). 1.50 The

Harder They Come (1973) (3246682), 3..35.

Dancehall Queen (1997) (5447858), **5.30 -**

Keels: The Liners (5673906), 8.00 Natural Disasters (2304635), 8.30 Natural Disasters (2210242), 9.00 Extreme Machines

DISCOVERY CHANNEL 4.00 Last of the Few (3456155), 5.00 Bartlefields (8131093), 7.00 Wheels and

Country (1988) (548204).

SKY CINEMA

(1995) (99022890). 11.10 Die Hard (1988)

(51597846). 3.30 - 6.00 For Queen and

adise (1990) (75300204) 4.00 - 6.00

Moonshine Highway (1995) (77240).

(79529). **11.00** Little Bigfoot (1995)

SKY MOVIEMAX

(81906), **2.00** The Wedding (1997)

8.00 First Kid (1996) (95155). 10.00

7.00 Today. 9.00 News; Home Truths. 10.00 News; Double Vision. Garden, its resident companies #LOO News; The Food Programme. 11.30 From Our Own stagger from crisis to crisis. With their problems so much in the າປູຽlic eye, James Naughtie Correspondent. s a discussion about the 12.00 News; Money Box. possible future state of opera and 12.30 True Lies.

PICK OF THE DAY

A GUEST on Private Passions - Lassus, Couperin, Beethoven (12noon R3), Robert Craft is as well as Stravinsky (right). He best known as Stravinsky's friend and collaborator. Their relationship was recorded in a series of books, Conversations with Stravinsky, and explored in depth in a Radio 3 series a few years ago. Craft pushed the composer into experiments liked production of The Bartered

of music shows a classical bent

ballet in the UK - should it get more public funding, or less?

See Pick of the Day.

Should it be made more accessi-

ble to people, and if so, how? 8.50 The Bartered Bride, Act 3.

10.10 What's the Score?. Robert

Cowan investigates the disasters of live recording, including Beethoven's Emperor Concerto

interrupted by anti-aircraft gunfire, Mahler's 'Das Lied von der Erde'

interrupted by screams of

and memory lapses. (R) 10.40 Bach and Messiaen.

Le nombre leger; Instants

dans le vent (Preludes).

11.30 Jazz on 3.

(924-946MHz FM)

6.05 Sports Desk

6.10 Open Country.

6.57 Weather,

6.00 News Briefing.

RADIO 4

Deutschland uber alles. Plus

fireworks, thunder and lightning

Angela Hewitt (piano). Bach: Preludes and Fugues: No 17 in A

flat, No 18 in G sharp minor, No

19 in A; No 20 in A minor ('48',

Book 1). Messiaen: La colombe;

defunts; Les sons impalpables

du reve; Plainte calme; Un reflet

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

emerges as a fine conductor, his own recording of the finale of Mozart's B flat Wind Serenade, proving a rough and ready but hugely lively performance.

Tonight's Opera on 3 (7pm R3) is the Royal Opera's muchwith serialism; but his choice Bride, live from Sadler's Wells. ROBERT HANKS

12.55 Weather.

115 Any Questions?.

1.00 News.



2.00 News; Any Answers? 0171 580 4444. 230 From Ivory to Plastic. 3.00 News; The Saturday Play: The Cat. (R) 4.00 News; Weekend Woman's Hour. 5.00 Saturday PM. 5.30 Talking Pictures. 5.54 Shipping Forecast. 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.15 The Now Show. 6.45 An Elf at Christmas. (R) 7.00 Saturday Review. 7.45 Keyword Matt Frei highlights a word from a foreign language which captures the essence of that country and its culture 2: 'Angst'. 8.00 The Archive Hour: A Christmas Gander. Simon Fanshawe delves deep into the BBC to discover the lengths programmes and presenters go to in order to capture some of the traditions of Christmas. 9.00 News; The Classic Serial: Bleak House. By Charles Dickens, dramatised in five parts by John Dryden. 3: Lovelorn legal clerk William Guppy is on the trail of or-phan Esther Summerson's origins

which tests plans to improve the country's education system by the early years of the next c entury. Edward Stourton invites panel and guests to discuss the proposition: 'Education should be valued for its own sake not because it supplies the workforce of the future'.

11.00 News; Rebel Music. The

second in a two-part series which examines 1968, the year of protest, through the eyes of four musicians whose songs provided the soundtrack for a generation. Stephen Stills and David Crosby examine how the foundations were laid for one of the most influential bands of the 70s -Crosby, Stills and Nash and, later, Young. With journalist and author Charles Shaar Murray. **11.30** Fine Lines. (R) 12.00 News. 12.25 Experimental Feature:

Somebody. 12.30 The Late Story: Winter Stories 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. **5.35** Shipping Forecast. **5.40** Inshore Forecast. 5.50 - 6.00 Bells on Sunday. **RADIO 4 LW**

(198kHz) 12.00 • 12.04 News Headlines; and gets himself involved in something far bigger than he can Shipping Forecast. handle - a spontaneous combus-**RADIO 5 LIVE** tion. With Claire Price and Michael (693, 909kHz MW) Kitchen. Director John Dryden. 6.00 Dirty Tackle. 10.00 News and Weather. 6.30 Breakfast. 10.15 Education 2000. A forum 9.00 Chiles on Saturday.

11.00 Move It. 11.30 The Back Page. 12.00 Sportscall 100 Sport on Five. 6.06 Six-O-Six. 8.00 Dallyn UK. Richard Dallyn with news from around the UK. Including the National Lottery Draw. 9.00 The Treatment. Stuart

Maconie and guests review the week's news. 10.00 Late Night Currie. Edwina. Currie with the weekend's big issues, including sport in depth at 10.30, and a news briefing at 11.00. Phone 0500 909693. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM (100.0-101.9MHz FM) 6.00 Jane Markham, 8.00 Countdown, 11.00 Masters of Their Art. 12.00 Mike Read. 3.00 Margaret Howard, 6.00 Classic FM at the Movies, 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Opera Guide. 10.00 The Classic Quiz. **12.00** Midnight Music. **2.00** Evening Concert. 4.00 - 6.00 Sunday Start.

VIRGIN RADIO (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz FM) 6.00 Jeremy Clark. 9.00 Harriet Scott. 12.00 Classic Countdown with Russ Williams. 2.00 Rock and Roll Football with Chris Evans. 6.00 Wheels of Steel 10.00 Janey Lee Grace. 2.00 6.00 Richard West.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO (198kHz LW) 1.30 On Your Behalf. 1.45 Sports Roundup. 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Music Review. 3.00 World News. 3.05 World Business Review. 3.15 Sports Roundup. 3.30 From Our Own Correspondent. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 Global Business. 5.00 Newsday. 5.30 - 6.00 Jazzmatazz.

TALK RADIO 8.00 Paul Ross and Sally Meen.
11.30 Danny Baker and Danny
Kelly. 1.00 Premiership Show.
3.00 Nationwide League Live Commentary. **5.30** Danny Baker and Danny Kelly. **7.30** Nancy Roberts. **10.00** Mike Allen. **2.00** - 6.00 Mike Dickin.

6.00 Tray Living (42386635). **9.05** Tempesti (4329432). **9.55** Rolonda (5164635). **10.45** Special Bables

(1227513). 11.15 Living It Upl (2777277).

12.15 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (2225529

12.45 Ready, Steady, Cook (7763971).

1.20 Michael Cole (8930529). 2.10 The

Roseanne Show (4177635). 3.00 Film:

ionic at Hanging Rock (1975) (26187703).

5.05 Hart to Hart (1559529). 6.00 Films

Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (7418797).

9.00 Jerry Springer Double Bill (9842155). 11.00 The Sex Files (1566068). 12.00

9.00 Get Carter (1971) (65340074). 11.00

Hearts of the West (1975) (51391074). 1.00 Going Home (1971) (16145556). 2.45 Get

Carter (1971) (61364285). 5.00 Close.

Duckman (80575), 12,30 Vacant Lot

(42827). 1.00 Comedy Store (66643).

Hooperman (86407), 3.30 Nightstand

(60020), **4,00** Close,

GRANADA PLUS

She Led Two Lives (1995) (9944567).

8.00 Rescue 911 (7595390). 8.30

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

PROFESSIONAL CHESSPLAYERS Association (PCA) world champion Gary Kasparov breezed through London in the second half of the week, dispatching opponents in two simultaneous exhibitions to the tune of 36-0. On Wednesday night he took on 24 teams at the Berkeley Hotel to raise money for the Kasharon school for special needs; and, with the teams of up to five players contributing as much as £5,000 per board, was able to raise more than £75,000 in the evening.

On Thursday he was in action again, launching a new Internetbased service, Play Games Now!, for the BT games network Wireplay. In a presentation before the main event BT's head of Intellectual games, Keith Silver, explained that the service, whose internet address is http://www.wireplay.co.uk, will comprise four major areas: backgammon, various mind sports, bridge and chess. It will be possible to play online, to chat and also to receive tuition

The chess part of the venture, programmed by Mark Levitt, who has represented South Africa at the Olympiad, is connected to Malcolm Pein's shop Chess and Bridge. And it was Pein himself who commented as Kasparov took on three teams of journalists, players from the Mind Games network and juniors. in four relays.

With just the three 15-minute games at a time and playing White on all boards, you could hardly suppose, though, that Kasparov wouldn't inflict another wipe-out; and while the juniors in particular - Thomas Rendle, Gawain Jones, Murugan Thiruchelvam and David Howell - did all fight gamely, all hands went down again.

In contrast to bridge, chess is not a team game and certainly not normally played in consultation. So it was tough for the teams on Wednesday and panic often set in as Kasparov loomed towards their boards and a decision had to be taken.

One of Kasparov's best performances was against one of two teams from The Times newspaper. The team were unlucky to end up in a slow strategic game - much better to complicate if possible - where Kasparov got a big space advantage and two active bishops. When "Times A" allowed the kingside to be blocked, Kasparov had all the time in the world to stroll his king over to the queenside and mon up.

White: Gary Kasparov Black: Times "A"

King's Indian Defence				
1 d4 Nf6	26 Bc7 Be7			
2 c4 g6	27 Nc3 Nf6			
3 g3 Bg7	28 Bd1 b5			
4 Bg2 d6	29 Ba4 N8d7			
5 Nf3 0-0	30 Bc6 Kg7			
6 0-0 Re8	31 Kg2 g5			
7 Nc3 c6	32 t3 Kg6			
8 e4 Bg4	33 g4 h4			
9 h3 Bxf3	34 Nd1 Kg7			
10 Bxf3 e5	35 Ne3 Kf8			
11 dā c5	36 Nf5 Ke8			
12 Be3 a6	37 Kf1 Kf8			
13 a3 Nbd7	38 Ke2 Ne8			
14 Be2 Nf3	39 Ba5 Nb8			
15 b4 b6	40 Ba4 Nf6			
16 Rb1 Rb8	41 Bc7 Nfd7			
17 Qa4 Qd7	42 Kd3 f6			
18 Qxd7 N6xd7	43 Kc2 Kf7			
19 Rfc1 Kh8	44 Kb3 Kf8			
20 Na4 Bf6	45 Bc6 Kf7			
21 bxc5 bxc5	46 Ka4 Nxc6			
22 Bd2 Rxb1	47 dxc6 Nf8			
23 Rxb1 Rb8	48 Bb6 Ke8			
24 Rxb8 Nxb8	49 c7 Kd7			

50 Nxe7 1-0

BRIDGE

25 Ba5 Nbd7

IT IS all very well making a "pressure" bid - one that forces your opponents to make a decision at an uncomfortably high level - but. having done so, it may be necessary to find an accurate defence if they accept the challenge and bid on. This deal is a good example of what I mean.

East opened One Heart and South overcalled with One Spade (double would have been a fair alternative). West bounced to Four Hearts, leaving North with a guess. As you can see, Four Hearts might ave failed but North who, it he had been given a clear run might have only raised to the Two level, speculated with Four Spades. All passed and West led VA which round of hearts but declarer ruffed

East encouraged with his king. Declarer ruffed the heart continuation and led a trump to the ace, seven and two. As another heart would concede a ruff and discard, West tried \$3. South won in hand and led another trump, shrewdly putting in the ten when West showed out. (Playing the king would, oddly enough, have led to defeat as East cannot now be prevented from scoring two trump tricks by playing another heart when in with ΦQ .) East won the ten with is queen and tried a third

North **♦**K 10 7 ლ93 0Q164 **₽**Q872 West East **◆**Q432 ΦA **♥A8762 ♥KQJ105** ◊752 10943 **4**)5 South **♠**J9865 ♡4 OA 1093 ♣ΑKó

Love all; dealer East

with dummy's king, finessed successfully in diamonds, and drew the outstanding trumps.

Did you spot the winning defence? West should not have worried about the ruff and discard. His partner's \$2 on the first trump suggested a four-card holding the could have petered with three), so another heart when in the A would have proved effective. Wherever declarer ruffs and however he plays, East's trump length is enough to defeat the contract.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

which meant that two directors beasts in their place. were finally credited (Robert Fred Schensi) John successful predecessor, A Fish Called Wanda. The plot revolves around the attempts of a new zoo director (Cleese) to satisfy his megalomaniacal boss (Kevin Kline) by disposing of all the

MUCH DELAYED by re-shoots furry animals and putting savage

After a few weekends devoted Cleese's much-touted Fierce union spotlight is now firmly Creatures (10pm Sky Premier, on the domestic game. Bath right) never lives up to the vs Saracens (1.30pm Sky high standards set by its wildly Sports 3), this afternoon's clash, promises to be quite a fierce encounter between the current holders of the European Cup and the winners of the domestic cup competition.

JAMES RAMPTON



(5662890). **10.00** Forensic Detectives (5672277). **11.00** Battlefields (9154567). 1.00 Weapons of War - Scorched Earth (7113643), 2.00 Close. SKY ONE

7.00 Bump in the Night (2409), 7.30 Street Sharks (82136), 8.00 The Adventures of Shibad (42797), 9.00 The Simpsons (30155), 9.30 Count Duckula 616). 10.00 The Best of the Chris Evans Show (29600), 11.00 World Wrestling Federation Live Wire (12364). 12.00 World Wrestling Federation Shot Gun (6'567), 1.00 The New Adventures of Superman (47987), 2.00 Star Trek: Voyager (79151), 3.00 Star Trek: Voyager (77600). 4.00 Star Trek: Voyager (69635). 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (7971). 6.00 Xena: Warrior Princess (50451). 7.00 The Simpsons (8600), 7,30 The Simpsons (9068). **8.00** 3rd Rock from the Sun (7548), 8.30 3rd Rock from the Sun (3155), 9.00 The Beast (81345), 11.00 Star Trek: Voyager (32659). 12.00 Showbiz Weekly (42391). 12.30 The Big Easy (36469). 1.30 Fire (92339). 2.30 -6.00 Long Play (3000440).

SKY SPORTS 1 6.00 Hold the Back Page (83451). 7.00 Suy Sports Centre (87838), 8.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (55529), 8.30 Racing News (74600), 9.00 Hold the Back Page (21109), 10.00 World Tanpin Bowling sters (49432). 11.00 Max Power (63068), 12.00 Gillette Soccer Saturday

(7935987). 5.30 Bobby Charlton's

Football Scrapbook (61258). 7.00 Budwelser Laague Basketball (51277). 9.00 Saturday Fight Night (224835). 11.30 Rugby Union Update Bath vs Saracens (20616). See Pick of the Day. 12.30 Spanish Football (32759), 2.30 Saturday Fight Night (24952). 4.30 Water sports World (39372). 5-30 - 6.00 Futbol Mundiai (83662).

SKY SPORTS 2 6.00 Wild Spirits (6813074), 6.30 H2O (4666722). 7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (3470258). 7.30 Racing News (3482093). 8.00 Soccer AM (1350118). 12.00 Figure Skating (4677838). 2.00 Pool (8589426). 5.00 H2O (3250123). 5.30 Watersports World (1460109), 6.30 World Windsurfing (9226074). 7.00 Galette World Sport (9250M). 100 Gasta World Sport Special (4806267). 7.30 Pool (1978258). 10.30 Moto-plus (2261797). 11.00 Budweiser Basketball (9967345). 1.00 Max Power (8449730). 2.00 Watersports World (8962594). 3.00 - 6.00 World Motor Sport (9874643).

SKY SPORTS 3 12.00 Watersoorts World (48003451). 100 Wild Spirits (94105884). 130 Ford Rugby Union Bath vs Saracens (54608109). 4.00 World Sport Special (93855987). **4.30** World Motor Sport (28049258). **7.30** Futbol Mundial (93772600). 8.00 Spanish Football (65343161). 10.00 Rugby Union: Bermuda Masters (65266068). 11.00 Muscle Night -Bodybuilders Championships (94288161).

EUROSPORT 7.30 Xtrem Sports (45616). 8.00 Snowboarding (77797), 8,30 Cross-Country Sking (49180). 10.00 Alpine Sking (7848548). **11.15** Biathion (94946451). 1.30 Alpine Sking (11836). 2.30 Bob-sleigh (33797). 3.30 Cross-Country Sking (42242), **4.30** Ski Jumping (93884), **6.00** Luge (87616). 7.00 Equestrianism (17600).

8.30 Boxing (26258). 9.30 Superbikes (37345), **1L00** Bowling (42529), **12.00** Fitness (33730), **1.00** Close. **UK GOLD** 7.00 Big Break (2410221). 7.30 Neighbours (51797708). 9.25 Dallas Omnibus (91975703). 12.10 EastEnders Omnibus (20690451), 3.00 The Bill Omnibus (86017797), 5.20 Butterflies (8795155), 5.55 Due South (4699068). 6.55 Carrott's Commercial Breakdown 3 (63253249). 8.00 Saturday Night Come-

dy: Only Fools and Horses (13184890). 9.20 Saturday Night Cornedy: Black day Night Cornedy: Men Behaving Badiv (9908258). 10.55 One Foot in the Grave (7541513). 11.35 Saturday Night Comedy: The Man from Auntie (8960426), 12:15 Film: The Beast in the Cellar (1971) Dod-dery spinster sisters Beryl Reid and Flora Robson seem unconcerned by the spate of killings in the village (7801778). 1.45 Rock Goes to College (1354484). 2.30 Mastermind (1209469). 3.00 - 7.00 Shopping with Screenshop (2045730).

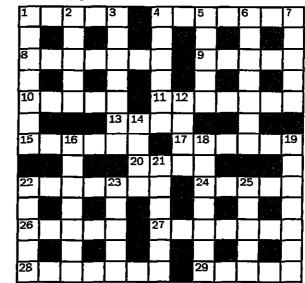
PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL 7.00 Grace under Fire (6074). 7.30 Roseanne (7242), 8.00 Spin City (5722), 8.30 Elen (1529), 9.00 Cybil (96703), 9.30 Newsradio (95635). 10.00 Fra (57987), 10-30 Cheers (66635), 1LOO Dressing for Breakfast (77708), 11.30 The Larry Sanders Show (32600), 12.00

1.30 Club Class (81961), 2.00 Dr Katz (67933), 2.30 Soap (46440), 3.00

6.00 The Box (9598635). 7.00 On the Buses (8928109). 7.30 Leave It to Charlie (8907616). **8.00** Holding the Fort (8530971). 8.30 Mind Your Language (8539242). 9.00 Gladiators (2243426). 10.00 The Persuaders (8823600). 11.00 El Extreme Close-Up (4049890). 11.30 Jeeves and Wooster (8471890). 12.30 Mission: Impossible (6259906). 1.30 Emmerdale (8655635), 4.00 Film: Shooting Stars (1990) Joyriding leenagers kidnap football star Gary McDonald (2728342). 6.00 The Persuaders (8415242), 7.00 Mission: Impossible (2643567). 8.00 Jeeves and Wooster (2629987), **9.00** The Cornections (4963426), **9.30** The Wheeltappers' and Shunters' Social Club (8590987). 10.00 The Odd Couple (8614987). 10.30 Hogan's Heroes (8623635). 11.00 Grana-

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3798 Saturday 19 December



ACROSS

Glossy (5) Lazy worker (7) Propriety (7) Wood-nymph (5)

Italian city (5) Open framework (7) Sentimentally pretty (4) Sensation (6) 17 Source (6)

Teenage rash (4) Hard rock (7) Caper (5) Collect (5) 27 Hold spellbound (7) 28 Stop (7) 29 Short poem (5)

DOWN

16 Loss of fluid (7) 18 Nuclear installation (7) 19 Plane fuselage (7) 21 Mortar (6) 22 Seize (5) 23 Question (5) 25 Linger (5)

Taste (6)

12 Long time (4)

14 That which (4)

Gives calming drug (7)

Men's underpants (1-6)

Become liable for (5)

Inspection of accounts

Driver's accessory (3-4)

Line of hilltop (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Boo, 3 Phase (Buffets), 7 Anaconda, 8 Daub, 9 Serial number, 10 Assail, 12 Finish, 14 Telephone box, 18 Sofs, 19 Ice-cream, 20 Elegy, 21 Eat. DOWN: 1 Bonuses, 2 Occur, 3 Plain, 4 Abdomen, 5 Elude, 6 Entail, 11 Average, 12 Finger, 13 Sextant, 15 Elope, 16 Hairy, 17 Barge.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

As BBC1 England except: 4.40 Final Score (2643451). 4.55 Northern reland Results (2639258). 5.25 Newsine (837)838). BBC1 N IRELAND BBC1 SCOTLAND

As BBC1 England except: 4.40
Afternoon Sportscene (7922906) 5.25
Reporting Scotland (8371838) 10.40 ne - Match of the Day (6157703). BBC1 WALES

As BBC1 WALES
As BBC1 England except: 4.40
Final Score (2643.451), 4.55 Wales on
Saturday - the Results (2639258), 5.25
Wales on Saturday - the Magazine (474360O). ANGLIA

As LWT except: 12.30 Pirate TV (24068), 1.05 Angla News (7/940451), 1.40 Airwolf (8140155), 2.30 An Audience with Al Saints (42451), 2.30 Film: Ernest Same es Christmas. The Disney glow covers Varney's Incredibly daft children's hero Wes Christm Emest P. Worrell, who started life in US TV commercials, as he decides to lend a hand to being Santa on his busiest night of the Be warned - more than the usual shortingful of seasonal siliness ensues (906364). 5.10 Anglia News and

Sport (2232987). 12.35 Film: China O'Brien. Martial arts death and destruction with a difference — this highkicker's female. Other than that it's the same daft story. Lady cop quits the force after an accidental killing, vows never to use her violent skills again, then promptly takes over her murdered deads job as sheriff, and chop-socks her way to the finale. Cynthia Rothrock stars in a tail tale which urbelievably inspired a sequel. (89876). 2.15 New Baywatch (6105020). 3.05 Box Office America (7553585). 3.35 Not Fade Away (6178440). 4.30 Murder, She Wrote (4381117). 5.25 ITV Nightscreen (8888575).

CENTRAL As LWT except: 12.30 Premiere (24068). 1.05 Central News and Weather (7490451). 1.40 Early Edition (7350722). 3.05 Film: Meet Me in St Louis. Vincente Minnelli's best musical (and he made a few good uns) is a romantic recreation of turn-of-the-century small-town America. divided into four seasonal segments. divided risk four seasonal sequence.

Each is Introduced by fliggreed photographs of the picket-fenced house in which the affectionate Smith family lives. Mary Astor and Leon Ames are morn and dad, but it's the daughters -

Judy Garland and Margaret O'Brien - who steal the show. Especially when Judy croons Have Yourself A Merry Little Crosis Pake Foursert Amerry Line
Christmas to her lid sister and young
Margaret, distraught at the prospect of the
family moving from their beloved home,
unceremoniously trashes the front garden
snowmart. (95983074). 5.40 Central News,
Weather and Goals Extra (2232987). 3.55
Jobfinder (3797223). 5.00 Spottight Asia
7050.01

HTY WALES As LWT except: 12.30 Playing for Time (24069). 1.05 HTV News (7940451). 1.40 Movies, Games and Videos (97149971). 2.10 Bugs vs Daffy: Battle of the Music Video Stars (86125074). 2.40 Film: Emest Saves Christmas (25817155). 4.45. An Audience with All Salms (7307987). 5.10 HTV Wales News (7307907) 12.35 Film: China O'Brien (2232987) 12.35 Film: China O'Brien (899876), 2.15 New Baywatch (6105020). 3.05 Box Office America (75535865). 3.25 Not Fade Away (6178440). 4.30 Murder, She Wrote (4381117). 5.25 ITV

HTV WEST
AS HTV Wales except: 12.30
Sportsweek (24068), 1.40 No Naked
Flames (97149971), 210 Movies, Games

and Videos (86126074). 5.10 HTV West News and Sports Results (2232987). MERIDIAN
As LWT except: 12.30 Dinosaurs
(24068). L05 Meridian News and
Weather (7:940451). L40 Airwolf
(3:40155). 2.30 An Audience with All
Saints (4:2451). 3.30 Film: Emest Saves
Christmas (997616). 5.15 Meridian News
and Weather (2:40906). 12.35 Film:
China O'Brien (8:9976). 2.15 New
Baywatch (6:105020). 3.05 Box O'ffice
America (7:5535865). 3.35 Not Fade
Away (6:75440). 4.30 Murder, She Wrota
(4:38117). 5.25 ITV Nightscreen
(96:96575).
WESTOCOLINTRY MERIDIAN

WESTCOUNTRY As LWT except: 12.30 Movies, Games and Videos (24068). 1.05 Westcountry News (71940451). 1.40 Bugs Burny Christmas Marathon (75225635). 3.25 Film: Bionic Showdown, Sx Million n: Bionic Showdown, Six Million 3.25 Firm: Bioric Stondown, Six Million Dollar Man Lee Majors teams up with Bioric Woman Lindsay Wagner in a hackneyed attempt to resurrect a couple of old TV hits. (86120890), 5.00 Cadle Capers (2245451). 5.10 Westcountry News (2232987). 12.35 Film: China O'Brien (899876). 2.15 New Baywatch

(75535865). **3.35** Not Fede Away (6178440). **4.30** Murder, She Wrote (438117). **5.25** ITV Nightscreen YORKSHIRE As LWT except: 12.30 Dinosaus (24068). 1.05 Calendar News and Weather (71940451). 5.05 Calendar News and Weather (8273242). 5.10 Scoreline

TYNE TEES As Yorkshire except: 1.95 North East News and Weather (71940451). 5.05 North East News and Weather (8273242). 5.10 Full Time (2232987). S4C

As Channel 4 except: 5.05 Newyddon A Chwaraeon (35967703). 5.10 Y Chwb Rygbi (59266155). 7.45 Newyddon (55346277). 8.00 Noson Lawen (21715109). 9.00 Chwediau Caergaint (56592797). 9.35 Streetmat (17070600). 90.05 Eurotroch (1884629 (10740600). 10.05 Eurotrash (68462265). 10.35 Rock Babylon with Graham Norton (72971797). 11.40 Fortean TV Xmas Files (75823426). 12.30 About Love Arrias Files (7020460). 12.40 Film: Lou and a Fly (83540488). 12.40 Film: Lou Reed: Rock 'n' Roll Heart (94120488). 2.05 Film: Kiss of Death* (91393391). 3.45 NYPD Blue (91485575). 4.35 Close.

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JASPER REES TELEVISION REVIEW

t week, I wrote that, east in terms of comedy, special relationship ween Britain and earles does not exist.

coordinates of the US armed forces onto the day before the House of Representatives were to debate impeachment. But I have a hunch that, before he put Her Majesty's air force at America's disposal, the Prime Minister entered his own set of coordinates. Most of the firepower was Bill's, so he got to choose the date; Tony was allowed to nominate the time. He plumped for 2200 GMT so that News at Ten (ITV, Wed) could go live to Downing Street for the PM's statement.

Like Saddam, ITV has been a bit off-message lately, what with talk of decamping News at Ten to children's teatime to allow more room for dramas in which Robson Green gets other people's wives into bed. By giving Iraq a bit of stick, ITN could show their bosses at ITV a carrot: seethis is what you get if you hang around these parts. On Newsnight (BBC2, Wed) Gordon Brewer directed our attention to live shots of the action from Baghdad. For a moment, all you could see on his screen was blackness, with the faces of Newsnight's guests reflected in it. It looked like an unwitting admission of television's reflective relationship with the news. It points its camera at something, and all it can see is itself.

The morning after the ght before, The Big reak/fast (C4, Thur) raked ver the coals. "Any news ories this morning?" asked ohnny Vaughan. Vaughan as playing it more breezily an usual because, the ight before, he too had oked on helplessly as his opy charm had been newed up and spat out by woman. Johnny Meets woman. Johnny Meets

THE BARTERED BRIDE (7pm BBC2, nght) A simultaneous broadcast with Radio 3 of Francescu Zambello's smart new production of Bedrich Smelana's three-act conric opera about a village ght who is kept upart from her true love by an impending arranged marriage (sung in Czech with English sublitles). As the patrons of the newly revamped Sadler's Wells head for their interval gin and tonics, at approximately 8.30pm, BBC viewers are invited to join James Naughtie as he chairs a debate on the future of opera in Britain, Joining him are arts minister Alan Howarth, General Director of the Scottish Opera, Ruth

3

encounter with the cast of Friends. He spent 60 minutes on a sofu with a lump of ice which no amount of eyebrow-cocking could melt. It makes you wonder whether tho qualities which make

10

qualities which make people ideal presenters of The Big Breakfust make them constitutionally unsuitable for other sorts of television and vice versa. Chris Evans is the only exception I can think of. Denise Van Outen is about to leave the show for pastures new. On the available evidence, you worry for her. First there was the disastrous Babes in the Wood, then last month's appailing Men For Sale, and now there's The Bill (ITV, Fr). Van

Outen was playing a gangsters's moll. I place that apostrophe advisedly because she was the blonde plaything of not one but two implausible hoods. We only met one of them, but he was implausible enough for the pair of them. He was played by Lesile Grantham, a man who knows a thing or two about making the mistake of leaving a hit show. I don't watch The Bill much and every time I do I'm reminded why. Because so many characters pass through the show, they are constantly having to tell you about themselves, leaving them little time actually to be themselves. The upshot in this instance was that time ran out before Grantham could confront van Outen with her infidelity. It would have been her big scene, a chance to show what she could do. So that may be why they never got round to it.

John Cale (BBCZ, Fri) brought the musician back to the chapel in the Brecon Beacons where he learnt to play the organ. The Welsh are the most inward-looking of the British nationalities, and have a consecurant

BBC

7.00 A Flintstones Family Christmas (R) (T) (5101074). 7.25 News; Weather (6128838).

7.30 Children's BBC: Eek the Cat (R) (5367180). 7.40 The Wizard of Oz (R) (S) (T) (8038109). 8.05 Hero Turtles – the Next Mutation (S) (7377787). 8.30 The New Adventures of Superman (R) (S) (T) (5877242). 9.15 Live and Kicking (S) (45340109).

12.10 News; Weather (T) (6834987). 12.15 Grandstand (S) (6833058). 12.20 Football Focus (2068181). 1.20 Speed Skaling (71932432). 1.30 Racing from Ascot (75984181). 1.50 Skiing (45249109). 2.05 Racing from Ascot (17239890). 2.30 Around the Grounds (1666258). 2.40 Racing from Ascot (4525187). 3.05 Showjumping (5605971). 3.45 Football Half-Times (3941635). 4.00 Showjumping (6889787). 4.40 Final Score (7922906). 5.15 News; Weather (T) (2255938). 5.25 Regional News and Weather (8371838).

5.30 'Allo 'Allo! More WWII antics with the French Resistance. The Colonel, Captain and René are captured by the Gestapo (R) (T) (513).

6.00 Jim Davidson's Generation Game. Christmes edition of the antedituvian game show. Brian Blessed, Roger Kitter and Bobby Crush join in the "fun" (S) (T) (10819).

7.45 The National Lottery Draw. Dale Winton helps create another millionaire. Meanwhile, Touched serenade the rest of us (S) (T) (336703). Noel's House Party. The Mr Blobbyless Noel Edmonds bicts you welcome to his house of fun (S) (T) (488161).

8.05 Casualty. Three theology professors are attacked a their local pub quiz (Tory McHate is responsible for the week's episode, in case you were wondering) while a young girl with violent mood swings is edmitted with a broken arm. Oh, and it's the Holby Christmas party (S) (T) (852722).

300

9.05 The Vicar of Dibley. A repeat episode, which seems a bit of a swiz at this time of the year. Geraldine is busy preparing for Alice and Hugo's wedding (R) (S) (T) (314277).

9.35 Winton's Wonderland. Dale Winton takes a festive trawl through the telly of Christmas past. Well, It's as good a way as any to shoshorn in some old Morecambe and Wise out-takes. Helping the camp one in his task are Berbara Windsor and Jimmy Tarbuck (S) (818884). 10.00 Have I Got News for You. Highlights from the last two series, with Angus Deayton, Ian Hislop and Paul Merton (S) (T) (75258).

10.20 Naws; Weather (T) (501161).

10.40 Match of the Day. Desmond Lynam introduces Premership highlights, joined by Trevor Brooking and Mark Lawrenson for analysis (S) (T) (6157703). 11.50 Clive Anderson All Talk. Frank Skinner and Björk try to get a word in edgeways (R) (S) (T) (659635).

10.30 Lililis The House of the Spirits (Bille August 1994 US). Epic, star-laden adaptation of leabel Allende's saga tracing a Chilean family's life from the peaceful 1920s through to the turbulent 1970s. See Film of the Day, below (S) (T) (19914180).

12.20 13IIM Funeral in Berlin (Guy Hamilton 1966 UK). Michael Caine reprises his role from The Ipcress File in the second of the Harry Palmer trilogy, based on the Len Deighton novels. British spy Caine travels to Berlin to investigate the "death" of a defecting senior Russian officer (T) (626285). odd film noir – not particularly good or convincing, but with its own peculiar fascination (and surprisingly lurid for the future director of *The Sound of Musia*). Lawrence Tlerney plays a double murderer who strikes up a relationship with the divorcee (Claire Trevor) who discovered the bodies of his victims (Followed by Weatherview) (T) (928440). To 2.25am.

2.00 Top of the Pops (S) (T) (87662). To 2.30am.

CONCERT OF THE DAY

6,25

9.00

1.55 The Virginian (R) (4143884).

3.10 [3117] Krakatoa - East of Java (Bernard L Kowalski 1968 US), Not the place to be in 1883, when the Indonesian Island (actually west of Java) blew its top, killing 40,000 and creating a huge tidal wave. Too many subplots spoil the usual disaster-movie brew. The special effects nabbed an Oscar, though (T) (85986161).

5.15 TOTP 2. Slade, Wizard, Mud, Cliff Richard, The Spice Girls and more (S) (6621180).

6.00 Travels with Pevsner. Craig Brown explores Suffolk, contrasting Gainsborough's view of the county with those of Benjamin Britten and George Crabbe. He visits Southwold with detective novellst P D James, and meets Patrick Phillips, the owner of Kentwell Hall, who mounts rumbustious Tudor re-enactments (S) (564635).

What the Papers Say (S) (104426).

7.00 **DIMINE The Bartered Bride.** Smelana's comic opera in a new production by Francesca Zambello. See Concert of the Day, below (S) (700890).

8.06

Family Fortunes. Les "Mr Personality" Dennis exchanges banter and general knowledge with the Bickerdike family from Middlesex and the Bowman family from Bradford. The top prize is £5,000 (S) (T) (302426).

8.35 ITN News; Weather; Lottery Result (1) (924136).

9.00 Rec gath annu cord of the Year Results. Denise Van Outen ners the telephone votes from the ITV regions and ounces the result (T) (326884).

9,35 Eve box pas and hire of b EIIM Pretty Women (Garry Marshall 1990 US).
Even as an updating of Cinderella and Pygmellon, this ox-office smash is so full of holes you could drain your basta with it. But Richard Gere is at his most relaxed and amusing as the out-of-town corporate raider who help thooker Julia Roberts to be his escort for a week of business meetings. And there's good support from Laura San Glacomo as Roberts' sassy flatmate

ain'tche sick of it? No? Well Peter Coyote narrates this documentary investigating "points of debate reawakened in the light of James Cameron's movie" (516109).

12.35 INIT New York Mounted (Sam Welsman and Mark Tinker 1991 US). NYPD Blue's Dennis Franz is one of the stars in this tale of a former rodeo rider who Joins New York's mounted police (S) (934001).

1.45 IIII Kiss of Death (Henry Hathaway 1947 US). Richard Widmark created a sensation in his movie debut, as the giggling, sedistic mobster Tommy Udo. Hathaway filmed his unusually authentic film notr on actual locations in New York (853198).

2.10 Bay ywatch Nights (6113049), 3.00 Box Office Amer-(49530643), 3.25 Planet Mirth (49533730), To 3.55am

BBC2

IZIMM Koenigsmark (Meurice Tourneur 1935 Fr). Plushly made Ruritarian costume romance which was filmed in both French and English by the same actors. This is the English version (T) (71832806).

Weekend 24 (99635). 9.00 Sports Review of the Year 1998 (R) (46819). 11.00 See Hearl (1002187). 11.45 The Sky at Night (1917345). 12.05 Radical Highs (9371819).

12.20 121M Escape from Fort Bravo (John Sturges 1953 US). BBC2's Christmas season of westerns begins here with Sturges' well-executed adventure which incorporates US Civil War action with Indian activity. William Holden, Eleanor Parker and John Forsythe star (T) (966971).

5.05 Lo

6,05

7.05 Th Blind Date (S) (T) (940971).

Fortean TV Xmas Files. From stripping Santas to Patrick Moore's search for the star of Bethlehem, the flev Llonel Fanthorpe returns for a bumper edition of seasonal weirdery (T) (5256).

10.00 Eurotrash (T) (97428)

10.30 EIDE Rock Babylon with Graham Norton.
The cheeky laddle trawls the seemler side of rock hiroll.
See Documentary of the Day, below (6180277).

11.35 The Young Person's Quide to Becoming a Rock Star. The final episode of (R) (T) (594987).
12.20 Lou Reed: Rock and Roll Heart (9065198).

3.25 NYPD Blue (7229827). **4.15** Dr John Special (5803285). **5.00** Sharky and George (7078204). To 5.25am.

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY



ROCK BABYLON WITH GRAHAM NORTON (10.30pm C4, right) Kenneth Anger's Hollywood Babylon was an underground classic, partly because most people at the time (the ground classic, partly because most people at the time (the early 1960s) were living under the publicists' illusion that all was sweetness and glamour in La-la land instead of depravity and insmity. The apposite is true today – especially of

6.00 QMT 9.25 SMT 12.30 (71941 1.10 C

ITV Live (S) (42646616). 11.30 CD UK (S) (33109). .30 NvS (24068). 1.00 ITN News; Weather (T) 941180). 1.05 London Weekend Today (T) (71940451). 0 On the Ball (58053616). 1.40 Cartoon (45147787).

7.00 Christmas T4: Madeline (5021884), 7.25 Animal Alphabet (6111548), 7.30 The Magic School Bus (83884), 8.00 Biker Mice from Mars (R) (99836), 8.30 The Vibe (T) (98109), 9.00 Morning Line (S) (27345), 10.00 Gazzetta Football Italia (R) (89068), 11.00 Transworld Sport (T) (65432), 12.00 Happy Days (R) (T) (6044277),

Annakin, Bernhard Wicki 1962 US). Star-studded and painstakingly ambitious depiction of the D-bay landings, based on the book by Cornelius Ryan and a long-standing pet project of Fox Studios boss Darryl Zanuck (who even insisted that filming took place in exactly the same weather conditions). Divided into three sections (planning, the Channel crossing and the attack itself) the cast includes John Wayne, who pocketed himself \$250,000 for four days filming, Robert Mitchum, Henry Fonda, Robert Ryan, Rod Steiger, Robert Wagner and Richard Burton (84507513).

ndon Weekend Tonight (T) (3004345), **5.25** iTN ws: Sports Results; Weather (T) (8357258).

about in the shallows of the English language in the enduringly popular word game (S) (T) (850180).

DE Record of the Year. Despite all the rumours, All Saints are still expected to turn up at this ITV shindig, as they are bound to be shortlisted for this gong-giving event. B*witched, Lightning Seeds and Run DMC are also in the running, as Denise Van Outen, as compère, wins most over-exposed bionde of 1998 (T) (100451).

7.00 Storm Force. The last in this series about extreme bad weather ponders short-and long-term climate changes. El Niño is the star of the place, damping down hurricanes in the Atlantic but exacerbating them in the Pacific, this little understood weather system is also responsible for bush fires and bilzzards. Cue that video footage (T) (9074).

OO Titanic Live. Well, hardly live. These are highlights of the exploration of the wrack of the *Titanic* which took place last August two-and-a-half miles down on the ocean floor. State-of-the-art robotic cameras nosed about in the interior of the ship, while a team of engineers and archaeologists attempted to unlock some of the mysteries which still surround the disaster (T) (8722).

9.00 Lonesome Dove. 1/4. This rather good western series was on BBC1 a few years ago ~ you might remember it. Robert Duvell and Tommy Lee Jones star as the two retired Texas rangers whose humdrum but peaceful existence is shattered when an old friend turns up telling tales of the fortunes to be made in the uncharted territory of Montana. They just couldn't let it lie, as Vic and Bob used to say (T) (38654797).

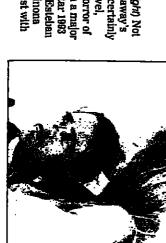
10.50 III. False Witness (Arthur Allan Seideiman 1989 US). A swinging New Orleans chat show hostess is murdered. Phylicia Reshad investigates (85623445).

ITIM Girl on Approvat (Charles Frend 1862 UK). Rachel Roberts plays a suburban housewife catching grief from her teenage daughter in this kitchen-shk B-movie (25141372). To 3.50am.

TELEVISION GUIDE BY GERARD GILRERT



the best film of the day, which has to be Henry Hathaway's punchy noir thriller, Kiss of Death (1.45am C4), but certainly the most topical. Isabel Allende's magical realist novel, following one Chilean family from the 1920s to the horror of Pinochet's torture prisons in the 1970s, defeats even a major talent like the director Bille August, in this, his all-star 1993 movie adaptation. Jeremy Irons is just plain bad as Esteban Trueba, while others (Meryl Streep, Glenn Close, Winona Ryder, Antonio Banderas, Vincent Gallo) do their best with



hannel 5

THE WEEKEND REVIEW

of Independent 19 December 1998

Channel 4

9.00 (S) (46:9548). 7.00 5 News and Sport (S) (60:95635).
7.30 Milkshakel (S) (26:34635). 7.35 Winzle's House (R) (S) (62:96838). 8.00 Lassle (S) (76:90:89). 8.30 Wishbone (R) (S) (76:98:61). 9.00 Land of the Lost (R) (83:49:61). 9.35 The incredible Hulk (75:49:71). 10.30 Loggerheads (S) (75:13797). 11.00 The Pepsi Chart (R) (S) (7) (88:1180). 11.30 Singled Out (R) (S) (88:29:109). 12.00 The Mag (S) (41:92:77). 1.50 5 News (S) (T) (14:65:98:19). 2.00 Blast (S) (15:01:838).

35 IIIM Daleks - Invasion Earth 2150 AD (Gordon Flemyng 1965 UK), London 2150 AD - looking suspiciously like London 1966 AD - and the Daleks have taken the capital by storm in this big-screen adventure. Peter Cushing makes a bland Doctor, however, and he's easily upstaged by the exterminating wheele-bins (6582987). 2.30 Sportsweek on 5. Gall McKenna Introduces the usual mix of Dutch soccer and American Ice-hockey (S) (2185513).

3.30 Sunset Beach Ornnibus. Maria accepts a lift from some strangers in the omnibus edition of TV's most deranged soap opera (R) (S) (T) (98829221).

2.05 Racing from Uttoxeter. Derek Thompson introduces the 2.30, 3.05 and 3.40pm races (20789906).

4.10 History Hunters. Teams of amateur historians from the border region between England and Scotland attempt to prove the veracity of Walter Scott's poems about the area's notorious family gangs (T) (7306258).

5.55 5 News and Sport (S) (T) (2432548).

6.00 Hercules - the Legendery Journeys. On the eve of the winter solstice, Hercules travels north Well, he's always had more muscles than sense (S) (7490546).

6.30 Right to Reply. Roger Bolton accesses viewers' complaints (T) (616).

5.05 Brookside Omnibus. Jacqui's New Year plans crumble when the architects bring bad tidings. And Ron gels more than he bargained for when he goes shopping with Anthea (R) (S) (T) (5542971).

6.55 Night Fever. Okay, so you're stuck in a room with Davina McCall, Sam Kane, Jordan, Eric Bristow, Gloria Hunnilord, Jonathon Morris, Bonnie Langford, Jason Simmons, Lisa Naxwell and Mark Homer. You recognise most of them but can't quite put a linger on what they do. Suddenly they all

at Werrior Princess. Xena devises a plan to it King Sivus shutting down an orphanage. The King lided by three ghosts who help him see the error of tiked ways. Sound familiar, Dickens fans? (S)

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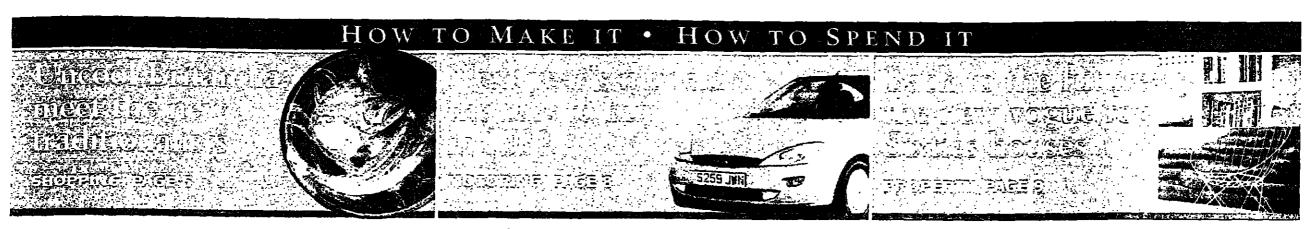
12.40 EIII Coyote (Richard Clupka 1992 Can). Mitsou (a French-Cenadian answer to Pamela Anderson, apparently) plays a misunderstood yoof (S) (2130223).





¥THE INDEPENDENT

YOURMONEY



Hands off our houses

A House of Lords ruling could enable families to avoid inheritance tax when passing homes to their children. But will this 'window of opportunity' last? Paul Slade reports

undreds of British families could escape paying inheritance tax when passing homes on to their children, thanks to a House of Lords ruling earlier this month. The Lords ruled that Lady Ingram, who died in 1989. was entitled to reduce the tax due from her estate. She did this by giving the freehold of her home, Hurst Lodge in Berkshire, to a family trust, but retaining the leasehold and continuing to live there rent-free.

Until now, the Inland Revenue has barred this practice by treating such transfers as gifts with reservation of benefit, which could be ignored when the giver dies. If the gift was ignored, s value was treated as never having left the estate, and hence was subject to inheritance tax.

David Norman, principal consultant at KPMG Personal Financial Services, says: "What we seem to have now is confirmation that it is possible to do what Lady Ingram did, and that the gifts with reservation rules have limited application.

"How long that continues to be the case is another issue, because it is possible that the Revenue, smarting in this decision, will want to change Le rules as soon as possible."

A Revenue spokesman confirms that they are already considering how costly the loophole opened by the Ingram ruling is likely to be: "We'll study the terms of this judgement carefully, and then we'll consider the implications for the inheritance tax rules. Ministers will then decide whether to make changes in the law".

Even if the Revenue does crack dov, y. Norman thinks they are unlikely so retrospectively. This creates what he calls a "window of opportunity" between now and whenever the crackdown may come.



Keeping it in the family: there's now more chance of your children inheriting your home

that it includes the value of your home. Genuine gifts made seven years or more before you die are exempt from the tax.

In Lady Ingram's case, the crucial part of the deal was the separation of freehold and leasehold title on the property. She gave away the freehold to a family trust in March 1987, but took in return a rent-free lease

allowing her to continue living there. When she died, aged 74, in February 1989, the Revenue argued that the 1987 transfer should be ignored as a gift with reservation. They said the inheritance tax due from her estate

Inheritance tax starts to bite on should be calculated on the 1989 estates worth over £223,000 - not value, instead of the far lower 1987 value, which the estate argued should be used. The estate won.

In his 10 December judgement. Lord Hoffman said: "It is clear that the scope for discrimination in limiting the terms of the gift to exclude interests which the donor wishes to retain is very wide.

"In particular, the beneficial ownership of land may be divided in terms of time as well as space, so that the right of enjoyment of the land for a limited period and the right to enjoy the land after the expiry of that period can exist simultaneously. One interest may form the subject matter of a gift. while the other is retained".

On the face of it, the case would seem to suggest that, had Lady Ingram lived the full seven years after making her gift, the value of her home could have escaped inheritance tax altogether.

David Marcus, a partner at solicitors Jay Benning & Peltz, says that separating out the leasehold of a property when you own the freehold presents no problems in itself.

"If you own the freehold of a house, then - subject to planning and safety and things like that - you can almost do what you like," he says. "If you own the freehold, then you can grant whatever kind of lease you want to."

But this tactic is only open to those who have already cleared the mort-

gage. Your lender is likely to take a dim

view of such moves if they still hold a

stake in your house. Sue Anderson of the Council of Mortgage Lenders says: "They would no longer be lending on the same basis. They wouldn't necessarily have control of who ended up with the freehold interest in the property, and that could create all sorts of problems from a lending point of view."

Many people will however waste no time in following Lady Ingram's example, David Norman believes,

He says: "There are some people who have been waiting for this decision, and who will now go ahead. We're talking about people who have difficulty reducing their inheritance tax by straightforward gifts of cash or shares, simply because they need those assets to live on. Really, the only asset of any size which they could do something with is the house."

But there are dangers, as Norman points out: "The problem with inheritance-tax planning is that you gift assets away to your children. There's the risk that they make bad marriages and, after the divorce settlement, suddenly half the money has gone. For many the tax is a small price to pay for the peace of mind of continuing to

Although it was not part of the Ingram case, it seems quite likely that families could use the same methods to protect property assets from being sold to pay for care when older people go into residential homes. Older people may well be able to give away the freehold to their heirs, and retain a lease giving them the right to continue living at home. When they move into care only the leasehold value could be considered as part of their estate which local authorities have the right to claim to help pay for the costs of long-term care. But this may have to be tested separately in court.

BARGAIN HUNTER



CAR OF THE WEEK Off road, on Trak

Music to your ears

THIS IS a good time of the year to be hanging around the forecourt of your local Daihatsu dealer. Their best known model is the rugged Fourtrak off-roader, which established the company's reputation in rural Britain. Buy before the end of December and a 2.8 litre Turbo diesel TDX which retails for £19,500 is just £16,795, almost cost price. Dealers T W White & Sons (01372) 450707) have vowed never to be beaten on price. JAMES RUPPERT

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

BRON WENDA, a large detached house between Caernarfon and Bangor, has been refurbished by the present owners, who have made one of the three reception rooms into a music room. There's a 17ft lounge with stone fireplace, a cosy 13'6" sitting room and a breakfast room/kitchen fitted with oak-fronted units. Outside there's a double garage and mature gardens. The five-bedroom house had just had £10,000 knocked off the price, making it now £155,000. Details from Dafydd Hardy on 01248 371212. ROSALIND RUSSELL

DEAL OF THE WEEK Gold standard

THE ALLIANCE & Leicester is introducing a gold card version of its ground-breaking MoneyBack credit card, which offers cardholders an annual cheque instead of air miles, points or other rewards which can't be converted into cash. Launched on 4 January. it offers cashbacks of up to 4 per cent on selected goods from suppliers including Hertz, Going Places Holidayline. Ticketmaster, Winerack Direct and Interflora. There is no fee, the monthly interest rate is 17.4 per cent, but there is a minimum credit limit of £3,000, which rules out cautious spenders like me.

CLIFFORD GERMAN

Club together for finance fun

Investment clubs are a great way to learn the basics of the market. By Kirsty Greenwood

"IT'S A laugh, it's a few beers and it's a ∴ ace to make money." This is Mark dson's opinion of investment clubs. Mr Goodson is the treasurer of H&G Investment Club (H and G stands for The Horse and Groom, the pub where the club meets). Investment clubs are groups of people, often novices to the world of stocks and shares, who pool their resources to invest in the stock market. The number of investment clubs in Britain is increasing rapidly. According to Finola Healy, bead of communications at ProShare, an organisation promoting direct share ownership, there were 300 investment clubs affiliated to ProShare in December 1996. Today there are 2,800 affiliated clubs, and Ms Healy estimates there are ther 200 non-affiliated clubs.

Ms Healy says: "We recommend that people start their own club, rather than joining an existing one. Where money is concerned it is best to be with friends that you can trust." The members vary greatly: "There is no typical investment club - they range from golfers and rugby players to housewives, city people and pensioners."

Most clubs first hold an exploratory meeting to discuss which companies they might invest in. Members then go away and track these companies. "They pick a share and think, 'If I bought this, how would it have done?' Members then invest just when they feel comfortable," says Ms Healy.

She stresses that no prior knowledge of the stock market is necessary: "For the most part, club members are initially novices. But most people will have knowledge of an industry. For exarrale someone going out shopping on

CLUBBABLE

FLYBOYS IS an investment club set up in April by the current and past members of the Cab Air College of Air Training Flight and Ground at Cranfield Airfield, Bedford.

Mike Dyson, head of training at the college and chairman of Flyboys says: "We currently hold our monthly meetings on the College's premises, but hope to shortly start meeting at a local hotel with a meal and drinks afterwards and make a social evening of it."

Flyboys currently has 17 members who initially invested £200 each in the club and now make a £20 monthly investment. They agreed that whenever the club has built up £1,100 of funds,

it would be invested in preselected companies.

"We have made no profits as of yet," adds Mr Dyson, "Due to the decline in share values since July, we are rather more down than up at the moment. We have the cash in the bank and are waiting for a down-turn in the market."

Mr Dyson's tip to anyone

interested in setting up an investment club is to be more careful than Flyboys was - at least initially. "You should sit on your hands a bit more, take the medium- to long-term view, and not overreact to sudden falls in the market. We did - and it cost us quite a few pounds."

a regular basis will know about the fashion industry. Everyone in the club should take a different interest and fo-

cus, and learn from each other." Guy Knight, a vice-president of Charles Schwab Europe, a stockbroking company which acts on behalf of between 500 and 1,000 investment clubs, says the clubs are "predominantly about enjoyment and learning".

Club members pay a monthly subscription, typically between £20 and £25, but sometimes as little as £10. Once clubs have decided where they want to invest, a stockbroker is needed to carry out transactions for the club.

Chub size is restricted to 20 members. because they operate like partnerships and any more than 20 members would mean that the club would have to be registered as a limited company. Ms Healy adds: "A membership greater than this makes it awkward to make decisions. We try to emphasise the fun side. If you make a mistake, you lose money, but don't worry about it too much. Get back

in there and do your research." Mr Goodson adds: "If you have 20 members, only 1/20th of the money is yours. You can be really really risky. It's amazing how much more risky you get after a few pints of Speckled Hen!"

Mr Knight believes that working in a group "stops you from making silly decisions... at the end of the day it is a democratic process."

ProShare awards three prizes every year, for the most successful club (won this year by Tykes International, Yorkshire who made profits of 101 per cent); for the best club overall regarding the running of the club and how much fun they have; and for the best newcomer.

Among other competitions run by Proshare is the Share of the Month competition, which asks clubs to pick the share that they think is going to be most successful in the coming month. The winners receive a £1,000 prize.

ProShare also provides a starter manual which gives advice on starting up an investment club. ProShare membership (the first year is free when you buy the starter manual) entitles clubs to access to their belpline and magazine, enables them to attend the Investment Club seminars run by ProShare and NatWest stockbrokers and gives them information on computer software to help revalue stocks and shares.

ProShare are now in the first cycle of their renewal programme with 70 per cent of the clubs continuing their membership. Ms Healey says: "It is difficult to know why the other 30 per cent are no longer functioning, but clubs do close down as people leave the area where the club was first established."

The ProShare Investment Club manual is available from ProShare, Library Chambers, 13/14 Basinghall Street, London EC2V 5BQ. Credit card orders: 0171 394 5200. The price is £25. but to The Independent readers it is £17 plus £3 postage and packing.

Thought for the day



Unit Trusts Shopping

Motoring Property

First, decide to do something

FINANCIAL MAKEOVER

NAME JOYCE ALLEN AGE 54 OCCUPATION ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATOR

JOYCE ALLEN is a departmental administrator at the London School of Economics. Her salary is a touch above the average for London. She is an American citizen and will receive a pension in the US when she retires. If she works for her present employer until she is 65, she will be entitled to an occupational pension based on 11 years service. She has no significant savings and a number of debts including a five-year, fixed-rate mortgage at 6.79 per cent which costs £450 a month and has another 15 years to run.

The Adviser:

Tyrone Silcott is a senior financial planner at City Independent Financial Planning, 35. Paul St. London EC2A 4NQ (0171-628 0857)

The Assessment:

Joyce finds herself in a very difficult situation but hers is typical of many that I see. Her income over the last 10 years has gradually declined, while her expenses over that period have gradually increased. At 54, she faces retirement with the dread of someone suspecting that they have not made sufficient arrangements. A particularly worrying feature is that her mortgage is set to run beyond her retirement age. Aithough she is prepared to work beyond the age of 65, she might not get that choice.

Her debt is made up of mortgage, personal loan, bank overdraft and credit cards. Almost 80 per cent of her disposable income is going to service her current debts, if you include her mortgage payments. This makes it very difficult to invest and accumulate capital while also maintaining a reasonable standard of living in what is one of the most expensive cities in the world, London.

Unlike many of her generation, she has no substantial inheritance likely so there is no chance of that taking the pressure off. Financially, she is alone.

change her financial position and that she is willing to make that happen. Second, she needs to go on an information-gathering exercise to discover what her situation will be when she retires. Simply knowing the facts can relieve the pressure.

Before moving to the UK 10 years ago. Ms Allen paid into the American social security system for a period of 30 years. There are procedures for obtaining a forecast of her benefits from those contributions and she should investigate these.

She is a member of her employer's superannuation scheme. It is a good scheme that offers guaranteed benefits as well as a range of sickness and death benefits. Unfortunately, she only joined her current employer in October 1997 and if she contributes to this scheme through to the age of 65, at current levels of income (benefits are paid as a fraction of salary) she is looking at retirement benefits from that scheme of only £3,150 a year indexed and a tax-free lump sum of £9,500.

She has a personal pension into which she no longer contributes. It has value of just £6,500 as contributions were only made for five years. As a member of her employer's scheme, no further contributions can be made.

We can request a quotation from the provider based on standard growth rates, but I would expect that even if funds performed well above standard growth rates, this small amount will not add significantly to her income in retirement. For example, today a £10.000 fund with Norwich Union for a woman at the age of 65 would provide a level annual income without guarantees of only £710.

It is clear that Ms Allen needs to bolster her savings and investments. It is equally clear, looking at her budget, that she cannot afford, in her current situation, to pay Experience has shown that there are a more money monthly into topping up her number of steps that Miss Allen can take pension via AVCs or ISAs and it doesn't take

that will improve her lot. The first is the an economics professor to work out that in biggest. She must decide emphatically to order to do so, either her outgoings have to go down or her income will have to go up.

The most typical way to reduce her outgoings would be to re-finance her debt including her mortgage. However, there are some problems. In May, she took a new mortgage with the Yorkshire at a fixed rate of 6.79 per cent for five years. Rates are likely to fall below this but if she were to remortgage again, she would pay penalties of up to 6 per cent of the amount borrowed.

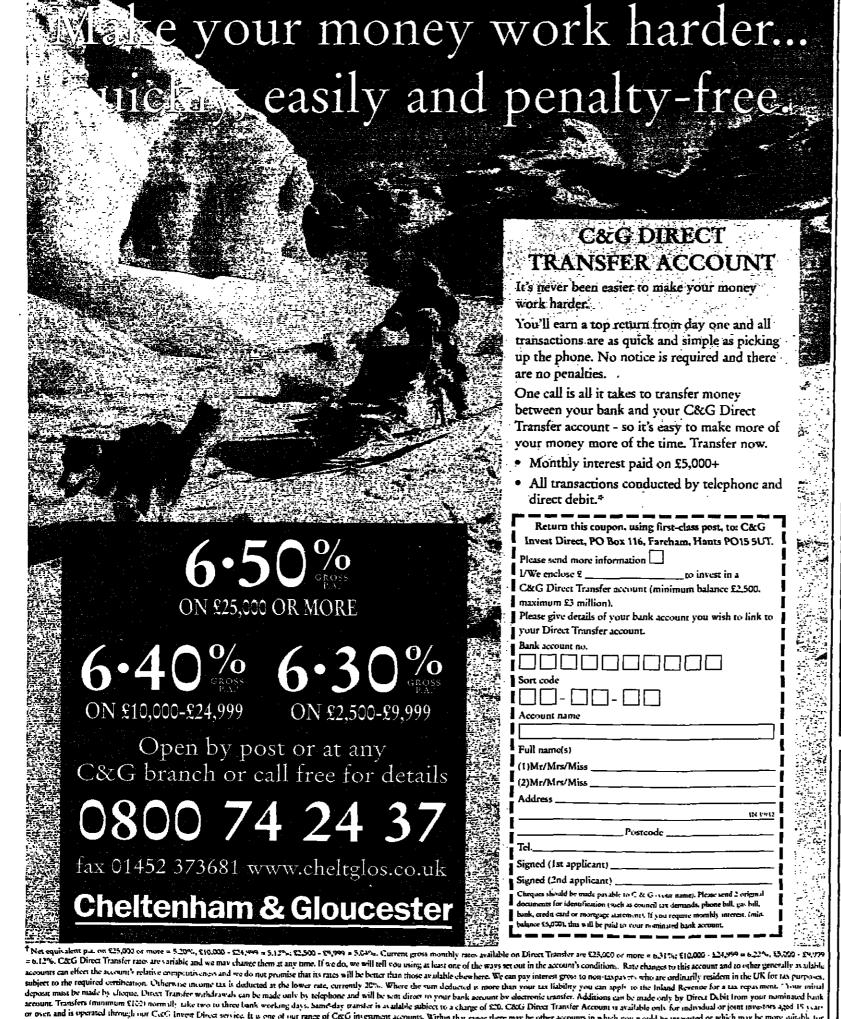
Other options include selling her home to release equity. However, the level of equity would be small, she would still need somewhere to live, and she would probably have to move well out of London to

The light at the end of the tunnel is that one of her personal loans, which is currently costing her £322.70 per month, ends in October 2000. Her goal must be to maintain her current financial position and not to build up any further debt within the next two years. This is paramount. If she has to take extreme measures to achieve this - cut up credit cards, go without a holiday for a year, draw up a strict spending budget - it has to be done. Her income cannot bear a further build-up of debt.

In order to do anything in the shorter term, the other option is that she increases her income. I understand that she is able to do some freelance typing and has 100wpm. She could perhaps look to do some freelance work in order to build up extra income that way. Ms Allen has said she is willing to do extra work in the evenings. I would then suggest any freelance or extra earnings were used immediately to build up a short-term savings fund equal to at least three months' outgoings. This money is not to be spent on anything other than dire emergencies. Holidays do not qualify

You will be amazed by the psychological boost this will give once you can see that





or over, and is operated through our CoC lineer Direct service, it is one of our range of CoC investment accounts. Within that range there may be other accounts in which you would be interested or which may be more autuable to

you. If you would like detail, of our other accounts, please ask. To help us maintain our service standards we may record or monitor telephone calls.

THE GOVERNMENT'S new pension plans, published this week, will inevitably complicate the pension scene, which is crying out

for simplification. **Existing entitlements** will remain, and it will take at least half a century before the transition from the current system to the new one is complete.

But if we accept that SERPS, the existing second state pension, is unsustainably expensive, and a substantial number of people will never trust the existing personal pensions system because of the persistent bad publicity over high charges and the way in which they were mis-sold, then reform was

unavoidable. But is this the best way forward? The Government plans to introduce a new second state pension (SSP) to replace the state earnings-related pension (SERPS) for anyone earning less than £9,000 a year in today's money.

It will be extended to carers and will rapidly introduce a minimum income guarantee (MIG), which will be indexed to national earnings, to preserve its value and reduce the number of state pensioners dependent on income support to top up their pensions. It will cost the taxpayer more, but it will tackle a serious social problem. So far, so good.

The proposals will not directly affect occupational schemes provided by employers. But the Green Paper privately-funded low-cost stakeholder pension, aimed primarily at everyone earning between £9,000 and £18,500 a year in current money who

CLIFFORD GERMAN

The Government's new pension plans will inevitably complicate the pension scene

does not currently have a pension. It will however compete with existing personal pension schemes. Crucially the

Government has rejected the idea, favoured by Frank Field of introducing a compulsory pension plan which would provide a private pension for everyone who does not have a company pension scheme or a personal

To argue that the poorly paid, the disabled and the carers could not afford a mandatory pension misses the point. The taxpayer would have to make their contributions just as the taxpayer will have to pay for the proposed second state pension which will replace Serps.

Instead, the Government has decided to rely on a combination of further tax incentives and national insurance rebates, to tempt those people who currently have no private pension entitlements either to join their employer's scheme if one is on offer, or to take out a stakeholder pension which will be simple to understand, and have low

management charges. The incentives will be supported by a persistent publicity campaign to try and frighten non-joiners who have so far resisted

the pressure to take out a personal pension – into taking out a stake-holder pension instead.

Employers will be expected to encourage all their employees either to join the company scheme or take out a stakeholder pension and shoulder extra administration costs (such as deducting contributions from the payroll), but they will still not be obliged to contribute either to personal pensions or the

4.455

new stakeholder pensions. The continued absence of an employer contribution must increase the real risk that many people who could contribute to a pension plan will still decide not to do so, and will rely on the state to take care of them when they are old.

Ironically, there is also a real risk that new stakeholder pensions could compete so effectively with existing personal pensions that established providers and the army of salesmen and financial advisers who help to sell personal pensions - will find themselves forced to reform or quit the business.

There will also certainly be some hidden snags, especially for people whose fortunes change, for better or orse, in mid-career, for the long-term unemployed, and for those who would like to switch from personal pensions to stakeholder pensions, but have already paid heavy upfront charges. Delays to starting

the stakeholder pensions for another four years also give too many people a perfect excuse to delay

LOOSE CHANGE

SG ASSET Management is offering a 2 per cent discount on lump sum investments into its three PEPs - a UK growth fund and a Euroopean growth fund. The company also has a non-qualifying technology fund. restricting PEP-linked investments into it to £1,500. Call 0181-815 8647.

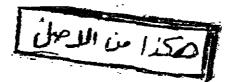
INDEPENDENT MORTGAGE Collection is launching a mortgage which combines a one-year, 2.75 per cent discount on

the existing variable rate, currently 8.2 per cent, with a 3 per cent cashback, up to a maximum of £20,000. After year one, the loan offers a free switch into another fixed rate until the end of the penalty period in year six. Call 0800 7310137.

BRISTOL & WEST is launching a five-year Children's Savings Bond, with a variable interest rate, guaranteed to be within 1 per cent of UK bank base rates. Call 0117-

THE NATIONAL Canine Defence League is teaming up with Petplan to offer insurance to dog owners. The policy cuts the cost of cover for owners who have their dogs neutered. The cost of cover in London, for a neutered pedigree is £10.90. Call 0800 0726677.

AGE CONCERN Funeral Plan has a new booklet, A Practical Guide to Coping with Bereavement. It includes advice on helping children deal with the issue. Call 0800387718.



Enticing incentives

A new report into the housing and mortgage market sees some good times, and some very good deals, ahead for hard-pressed borrowers. By Jonathan Davis

ike most people who should know better, 1 spend far too much of my time thinking about house rices, mortgages and the outlook for the housing market. My New Year resolution is to treat all news about trends in house prices and mortgages as an interesting curiosity which should mainly be ignored, though once in a blue moon may be worth doing something about.

This is sound advice, but not so easy to put into practice. Which is why, before taking my vow of abstinence on the subject, I cannot resist commenting on a new piece of research about the medium term outlook for house prices and the mortgage market from Lombard Street Research, Professor Tim Congdon's economics consultancy. The report, by Stewart Robertson, is one of the best and most closely argued analyses of the mortgage market that I have seen in ages.

Mr Robertson's analysis effectively makes the case that the buyers' maret of the last two to three years - the veriod of cashbacks, flexible mortgages and all the other new incentives dangled before the would be mortgage borrower is likely to endure for some while yet. His argument goes as follows.

On the borrowers' side (that's you and me). the demand for mortgages is likely to remain subdued for several years. The main reason is that as a nation we are still far more in debt to mortgage lenders than we wish (and perhaps ought) to be. The profound effects of the house price crash in the first half of the 1990s, which plunged thousands into negative equity, and overextended many

others, have yet to play themselves out. It is true that, thanks to the welcome revival in the housing market since 1995, negative equity is now largely now a ting of the past. But it remains the case at mortgage borrowing is still at unprecedentedly high levels, almost any way you care to measure it. As the chart shows, the ratio of mortgage debt to housing equity (that is, the proportion of the value of our houses which is financed by mortgages) is still around 50 per cent, well above the long-run historical average of 30 per cent.

Meanwhile, two other powerful forces are working to restrain mortgage demand. One is the cumulative effect of the phasing out by successive governments of MIRAS tax relief. The demise AIRAS has substantially reax advantages of borrowing to buy property, but it has taken time for homeowners to wake up to quite what a difference the ending of Miras has made to the cost of buying property, particularly for higher rate taxpayers.

The other factor is the potential impact on housing demand of the changing pattern in population growth. The number of first time buyers in the housing market is now starting to decline. First time buyers are the marginal who set the pattern for housing market demand, and they are a diminishing band. This too can only put further downward pressure on future

demand for mortgages.
While the demand for mortgages is therefore likely to remain subdued for several years, it is doing so at a time when banks and building societies have also built up record amounts of capital which they now need to deploy profitably. A significant chunk of this capital has been devoted to winning a share of the mortgage market over the last 15 years, and there is as yet no sign of the drive for new business alleviating - if ar thing, rather the opposite.

ar Robertson argues, convincingly to my mind, that the combination of weak mortgage demand and a surplus of capital in the banking sector can have



only one consequence. If his analysis is even half way correct, what it suggests is that the battle for mortgage seeker's

business is going to remain intense. He sees a continuation of today's market in which mortgage seekers - especially first-time or new borrowers -

continue to find themselves knocking at a virtually open door. Most of the benefits of the struggle

for market share in mortgages so far have gone to first time buyers, but Mr

Robertson predicts that we will also see much more remortgaging activity by existing borrowers as more and more people come to realise the benefit of switching their mortgages, and the ex-tent of cross-subsidy from existing to

new borrowers becomes widely known. Mr Robertson thinks that those best laced to benefit from these market conditions will be the surviving mutual building societies. His analysis shows that, since 1996, mutual societies have

MORTGAGE DEBT VS PROPERTY VALUES

(as in mine), barring a bad recession there are solid reasons to expect a period of house price increases over the next few years. However, as most people still feel they have more mortgage debt than they would like, or are used to, the emphasis for most people will be on repaying or refinancing mortgages rather than raising their overall mortgage borrowing. This will be a tough environment for lenders, but will present an opportunity for borrowers to get some outstanding deals on their mortgage. Your New Year Resolution, therefore, should be to make sure you are ready to cash in on these favourable conditions as long as they last.

been taking a growing share of new

mortgage business from the banks.

greatest incentive and the greatest op-

price war develop.

portunity to go on doing so, should a

In Lombard Street Research's view

The mutual societies have both the

Strategic Analysis of the UK Mortgage Market', by Stewart Robertson, is published by FT Business Jonathan Davis can be contacted via e-mail at: davisbiz@aol.com

Lloyds goes online

LLOYDS BANK launched its Internet banking service. Lloyds On-Line, just over a month ago at the beginning of November

You may register for the service online but it will take around 10 working days for your registration to be activated. Obviously, it is limited to Lloyds' customers. However, the bank has already signed up around 27,000 users.

Lloyds On-Line sets out new territory in web-based banking. There is no software to download, although it claims compatibility with both Microsoft Money and Intuit's Quicken financial software packages. It is also the first UK online banking service to be Apple Mac-compatible.

The service is guaranteed to be free for the first 12 months, until November 1999, but the bank reserves the right to make a small charge thereafter. At present, your only costs in using Lloyds On-Line will be phone bills and ISP charges.

So what can you do with the Lloyds service? Pav bills; transfer money between accounts; look at

INTERNET INVESTOR

ROBIN AMLÔT

current and previous statements; and check and change the dates and amounts of standing orders. You may also view direct debits, but you may not alter them. The reason you may not be able to do other things that you might wish to do is security.

Payments may only be made to what the site calls "pre-arranged beneficiaries". So if you want to pay a bill from somebody you have not dealt with before, or set up a new standing order, you have to ring Lloyds' telephone banking service.

Once you have set up such a "pre-arranged beneficiary", their details will remain accessible to allow future bill payments

to be made. One little niggle brought to my attention by a reader is that it appears to be impossible to pre-arrange a transfer between accounts. which may only be done on the day in question.

You will need to be using either Internet Explorer 4.0 or Netscape Communicator/Navigator 4.0 to access the service. Lloyds also recommends

that you have a virus checker programme. It may not be too long before the PC is turned completely into a commodity by becoming a give-away special offer on its own. In a recent interview, Ben Halla, chief executive of microchip maker National

Semiconductor, envisaged a point in the future when banks will offer customers a free PC when opening a new account.

Lloyds On-Line: www.lloydsbank.co.uk Robin can be reached at RobinAmlot@aol.com

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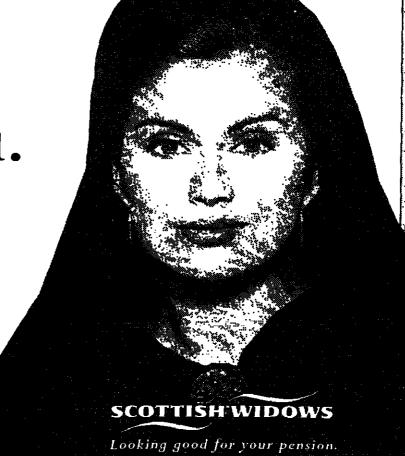
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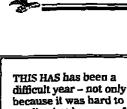


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predict, but because of the trials and tribulations that have beset world economies and stock markets in general. It started on a high, with many analysts forecasting that a peak would be reached - and soon. The continuation of the bull market into the early summer caught many by surprise. Valuation levels became sorely stretched. Weight of money was, more often than not, cited as the reason for the continuing surge in equity prices. Lower interest rates and inflation seemed to contribute. although the fall in the cost of living in the developed world looked likely to reduce

investment returns. In the end it was the Russian crisis that turned the market on its head. We are having to learn to live with violent market moves these days, and the summer was no exception. The rush to quality created anomalies that appeared bizarre in some instances.

Yield spreads widened to unprecedented levels and, among other things, contributed to the demise of one of the most respected hedge-fund operators in the business - LTCM. The dollar and sovereign debt of the world's most powerful economies benefited, but collateral damage was evident in the way that Brazil and other emerging markets took a pasting.

In the end it was either

the shortest bear market on record or a market aberration. By the autumn, prices were marching up again and America even broke into new high ground. But the volatility remained and the disparity between the performance of various sectors served to unseat

some managers. We approach the end of the year with our own economy slowing, little sign of Christmas cheer on the high street, no resolution to the problems in Russia and Brazil, and bombers and cruise

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BRIAN TORA

It was the shortest bear market on record - or a market aberration

missiles once again in the air in the Middle East. It hardly paints a picture of future stability and optimism, but it seems unlikely, however, that equity values are once again poised on the edge of a precipice.

Yet eight years ago, when the coalition forces responded to the invasion of Kuwait, markets took the whole thing in their stride. And it had not been so very long since the stock market crashed, following which intemperate priming of the world's economies had led to the slump of the early Nineties.

Today is different, with the American economy seemingly unstoppable, even if the President of the world's most powerful nation may be approaching his sell-by date. Deflation may be a worry, but by and large prospects really do not look too bad.

Investors learned a lot in 1998. Putting that experience to good use in the year to come will be the trick that many of us will seek to turn in the months ahead.

Forecasts are generally foolhardy, but perhaps we should all now be polishing our crystal balls and endeavouring to second-guess next year's market trends. It might keep me out of mischief as I face the turkey curry next week.

Brian Tora is chairman of the Greig Middleton

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MP - Mortgage Indentally premium

N - Introductory rate for a limited period

8 - Withdrawaks wa Bank Clearing System

F - Fixed rate (all other rates variable)

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* X-completation is before 30.4.98

N - Net rate

P - By post only

H - Higher rate applies it insurance not arranged

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A - Minimum age 22 yrs. Holders of comprehensive motor insurance policy or lander's existing custom

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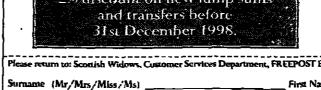
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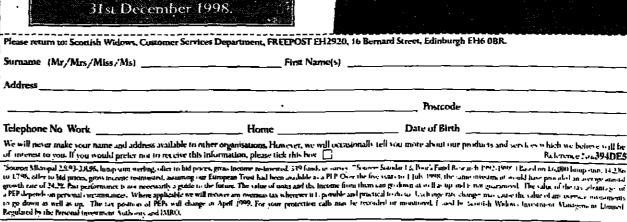
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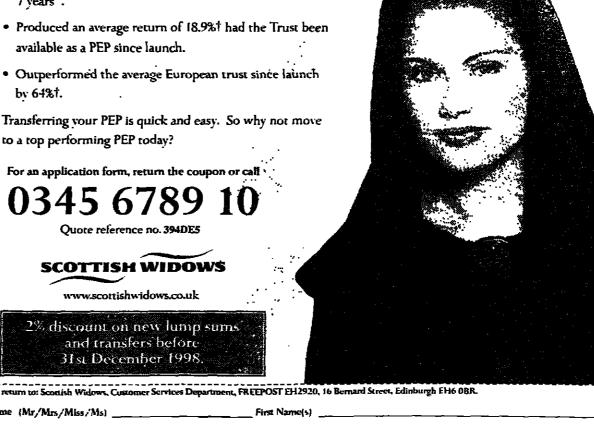
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SHOPPING

Looking for an item with classic appeal, but that is modern at the same time? You need the New Traditionalists - steeped in Britishness, and available via the Internet. By Karen Falconer

Going back to British basics

are looking pretty gloomy on the British high street. But, when the large retailers catch a Christmas chill, the shopping world is not necessarily collapsing with flu. For, as one big name after another suffers a decline in profitability, away from the bustle of the City, a new breed of retailers is doing rather nicely.

Meet the New Traditionalists, the perfect counterpoint to the beech and steel brigade, which celebrate - and trade on - Britishness without either the funkiness of Cool Britannia or the stuffiness of Jermyn Street - more Ledbury market town than Metrocentre mall, more Martha Stewart than Marks & Spencer. What unites this disparate gang is an emphasis on personal taste and quality and a studied distaste for the indiscriminate mass market.

Where Laura Ashley and Yardley got themselves labelled as gift places for grannies by affluent baby-boomers, the new names on

Take Crabtree & Everyn application Fresh fairth application of the Communication of the Commu pany that has survived several jostling in large wire baskets (£31); decades and is renowned for clas- plain white china dinner plates sics such as its jojoba soap and (£10.95) are personalised with cupine bath essence. "We've stepped rious place-cards and menu-ho up several gears in the last couple of years and are now bringing out products that will make people sit up," explains Catie Briscoe. "Our watchwords are innovation, relevance and lifestyle, and our image is that of a sanctuary. If we weren't so innovative, we'd be suffering more, because consumers are far more knowledgeable than they used to be, and know what they want."

The recent Crabtree & Evelyn Aromathology collection, all sourced from small producers that use organic or wild-gathered plants, includes a Headache Aide that is perfect for the stressed-out Nineties person who struggles between work and shiatsu sessions. Last year, the company also launched Gardeners, a range of skincare products specifically devised to address the boom in gardening. And already Gardeners Hand Therapy (£8.95) has knocked jojoba soap from its pedestal of 25 years as a best-seller.

Savouring the success of innovation, the company is launching a new Cooks range next March. "It's about taking a very simple idea and making it different," adds Briscoe. "There's a clear trend towards kitchenware and cooking. But cooking has changed: it's no longer about a woman putting a meal on the table three times a day. It's therapeutic; a hobby."

Hence the special soap for dishwasher hands (£6.95); aromas to create the smell of home cooking around ready-made meals (£3.95); and, for the millennium neurotic, a fruit and vegetable wash to remove surface pesticides (£5.50), passed by the US food regulatory body, the FDA.

Crabtree & Evelyn grew on the high street to its current 700 outlets but, in contrast, the neat House mail-order catalogue started life within a British art gallery, the Hambledon Gallery, now evolved into a 3,000sqft "destination shop".

"It's hard to make an art gallery financially viable in Dorset, so two-and-a-half years ago we set up the mail-order operation. We've had a fantastic year, touch lots of wood," says Victoria Suffield, House's director. "We called it House because all the phothe block may be selling tradition, tographs are shot in the house but it is carefully selected for a scruffy lived in one with mucky basins and rusty taps.

> ers (£9.95 for four); and the best-selling Moroccan tea glasses (£14.95 for six) are filled withdainty flowers. There's also a selection of sisal baskets to store logs (from £3.95), lights, vases, sheets, toys... "It's all about personal selection, but I don't want to be too dictatorial. They're quite simple items, and you don't have to buy into the whole House thing. I want people to buy beautiful pieces from us, then put them with their own things," says Victoria Suffield.

> Duntisbourne is based around similar values, but steps further into British traditionalism. Based in Cheshire, and started in October this year by two people who previously supplied scarves to high-street retailers, it has a quintessential Britishness represented by an ideal - a farm in the Cotswolds that is pictured, to set the scene, at the beginning of the small but beautifully produced catalogue. Duntisbourne has also launched a gallery on the Internet, which aims to sell one-off pieces to an international market.

"Duntisbourne products are all



Best of British: hand painted salmon bowl, £84.95 from the Duntisbourne catalogue, top; House's best-selling Moroccan tea glasses, £14.95 for six, above right; Crabtree & Evelyn's new Cooks range, which includes the spice soaps shown above left, is due out in March and starts at £3.95 for innovative cooking aroma sprays

founder, Venetia Hendry. "We're not trying to be twee country: everything we select will fit in the modern home - but it won't be chrome. Its thinking is opposite to that of the high street, which is awash with cheap imports at low prices." Pieces include antique oak mirrors (£74.95), hand-forged steel-pipe fire-blowers (£18.95), sycamore hand-turned bowls (£69.95), and cobalt-blue glass bowls (£149.95). Best-sellers so far are the wrought-iron candle

offer future heirlooms," says its co-sticks (£43 for two including can-to February). dles), hand-painted farmyard china (from £34.95), and a handpainted salmon bowl (£84.95).

A similar venture, set up just over a year ago, is Country Living magazine's By Post. Developed from the Country Living fair, this was initially set up to sell seasonal Christmas gifts, but this year it has expanded into selling lifestyle items, and is toying with the idea of becoming biannual rather than just seasonal (at the moment it runs only from October

As with the other New Traditionalists, By Post prides itself on selling goods that are in some way exclusive. "Our customers don't mind spending money, as long as what they are buying is different." says Helen Riley, product develop

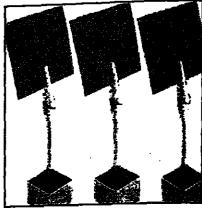
er for the company. Best-sellers include the pashmina shawl (£124.95) which arrives in an elegant silk envelope; leather washbags (£19.95) and various Christmas decorations (from

not flashing their money about, perhaps, as maintained in a report for American Express last week. this is as much to do with increasing canniness as with a lack of confidence in the economy.

For more information contact: Crabtree & Evelyn on 0171-603 1611, or www.crabtreeevelyn.com; House on 01258 830209: Duntisbourne on 0161-980 5880 or www. duntisbourne.com; By Post on 01536 720144

SIX OF THE BEST

PLACECARD HOLDERS



Mini clipholder for placecards, £5 for six, Paperchase (0171 580



Silver-plated elephant placecard holders, £69.50 for six, The General Trading Company (0171



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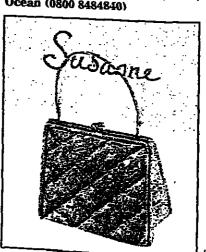
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Silver-plated pig place card holders, £15.99 for three, The National Trust (0117 988 4747)



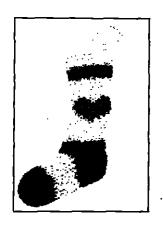
Alessi pearwood photo, postcard, placecard and menu holder, £9.95, Ocean (0800 8484840)



Set of six miniature handbag placecard holders, £12.50, Graham & Green (0171 727 4594)

STOCKING

FILLER STOCKING

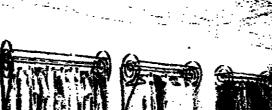


FOR THE last stocking filler of the week, make sure your Christmas buys have somewhere nice to await their unwrapping. This handfinished woollen stocking comes from Shaker and will make even a squidgy satsuma seem a sophisticated gift. Available in small, £27.95, or large, £44.95, on 0171-935 9461.

SHOPTALK

HIP COVENT Garden clothes shop, Koh Samui, is well known for its sophisticated and colour-coded clothes rails and for the troupe of fashion folk and celebrities that march through its doors. From £49 for a Christa Davis vest to £1.200 for a Ruti Danan dress, it's not difficult to see what attracts shoppers such as Kylie Minogue, Kate Moss and Björk to the coathangers supporting garments by fashionable young designers such as Lainey Keogh, Tristan Webber, YMC and Dries Van Noten.

Four years ago, Paul Sexton and Talita Zoe gave up their jobs to open Koh Samui in order to sell the sort of clothes that they themselves like. The idea was that it would serve as a showcase for young British fashion designers and, besides the triendly service, customers can enjoy the opportunity to pick up a little something by a soon-to-benoticed designer - although





these days it is equally likely to be someone from the international scene.

The pair are credited with having just about the best eye that there is for spotting the Next Big Thing; in fact, these champions of British design are doing so well that the owners of the exotically

named store opened a second shop in Knightsbridge earlier

The new Koh Samui shop is at 28 Lowndes Street, London SW1 (0171-838 9292); the original is at 65 Monmouth Street, London, WC2 (0171-

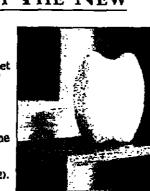
OUT WITH THE OLD

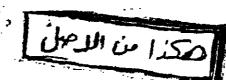
WHEN YOU'VE got to Christmas Eve without so much as ripping the end unzipping your wallet, it's time to reach for the chocolate. Get it right with James's handmade French chocolates, £5.95 box from Mortimer & Bennett, 33 Turnham Green Terrace, London W4 (0181-995 4145) ...



IN WITH THE NEW

... or you could simply forget all about the chocolates and get a sweet tooth. Treat your friends' chompers with respect: give them fillings of a purely floral kind by buying them a funky ceramic "molar" vase. The Michael Sodeau design pictured here costs £55 from Same (0171-247 9992).





I WANT TO OWN... SOME URBAN HARDWARE

The toys are back in town

LIFE'S TOUGH on those mean city streets - but, come on, not that tough. Probably the most distressing urban experience you can put your armoured off-road vehicle through is the local 50p car wash. If this is the kind of pampered street life you lead, then here is your essential urban toolkit. From transport to communications, the well-equipped urbanite has all options covered and, more importantly, meticulously abides by the Golden Rules of Gadgetry and Urban Gear.

RULE NUMBER ONE:

Being able to cope with every eventuality, however ludicrous, is the name of the game. Over-qualification is one important maxim Tool for the rule: the Casio Pro

Trek PRT 40E. In the world of sophisticated egg-timers, this is the one that will tell you what psychological problems the chicken had. The bulges at the side of the watch house a range of sensors that can help you get your various bearings. A digital compass tells you exactly where you're heading in life, the onboard barometer chips in with a few handy hints about the weather, and the altimeter can tell you how high you are (great for clubbers). If you program in how high you want to be, the alarm will automatically sound when you reach that altitude (5th floor Harvey Nicks, whatever). If it's dark and cold up there, just flick your wrist and the auto-illuminator will help you read the temperature gauge. Research will also reveal the dull stuff such as times, alarms and stopwatches, but by then you won't even care.

Cost: £189,95

RULE NUMBER TWO:

Gadget density. The correct size-toweight ratio is vital if you're going to convince anyone of the seriousness of your tool. Tool for the rule: the oddly named

Leatherman Wave (not to be mistaken for a friendly S&M enthusiast) fits the bill here. This little brick of stainless steel opens its arms to become a shed-load of screwdrivers, pliers. blades and openers, plus a saw. wire-stripper and a diamond-coated file. Whether you want it for filing your nails while waiting for a bus, or deciding to build your own vehicle to get you home in time for tea, this a crucial bulge for your back pocket. Cost: £89,95

RULE NUMBER THREE:

In the field of communications, the weight rule is turned on its head. The ideal here is to be able to carry an office in your pocket without even knowing it's there.

Tool for the rule: the Nokia 9110 Communicator (due out in January) weighs 253 grams and allows u to phone in sick, fax in sick, e-uall in sick - even send the pictorial evidence - all from the comfort of your sun-dappled deckchair. As well as the host of Windows-compatible personal organiser facilities, the Communicator can receive pictures via infrared from digital cameras and also has Multi Media Card removable data-storage. Its capacities as an ofit comes to wild Christmas parties. Cost: £350-£450

RULE NUMBER FOUR:

Excessive durability and protection, especially where carrying all the clobber is concerned. Gadgeteers have a Paviovian reaction to the word "professional" as an emblem on any product, suggesting as it does the toughness and specifiTool for the rule: to make sure you won't be knocked off course by any stray thermonuclear explosions.

This is a garment with "specific-

tenacity nylon 66 (fashionable with the Ministry of Defence for flak jackets and blast-proofing) and comes internally coated with neoprene for water and fire resistance; has strategic padding around the pelvis, kidneys, spinal column and head; plus a full-face hood for protection and anonymity, and a special sleeve pocket for respiratory mask.

- and if you have trouble getting a taxi to stop for you on the way back from your local war zone, just chuck yourself on to the bonnet with nonchalant impunity.

whip out your shiny City Bug fold- and that, unless the idea of a whale The Casio Pro Trek PRT 40E is away electronic scooter. At a racy pedalling along on the bicycle of a maximum speed of 15mph you run the risk of being overtaken by the avit is rechargeable and its 1,200-watt motor has a 12-mile range. The downside to this nifty machine is that, although the frame weighs next to nothing, the battery would need some serious weight-watching

small child appeals, or you are the kind of person whose main concern erage crisp packet in a breeze, but is whether the helmet you are advised to wear will cause distress to your locks, it is guaranteed to make you feel silly. It's tough on the streets - but you've got to keep a sense of

available from Time For Life on 0171-197 0534: for Leatherman stockists, or product information, call the importers, Whitby Products, on 01539 721032; for your nearest Nokia stockist call 0990 003110: Vexed Generation clothing is available from 0171-287 6224; and for stockists of the City Bug foldaway electronic scooter, call



lives depend on them.

sniper attacks, pollution or freak weather conditions as you pop out to take the cat for its evening stroll, invest in a Vexed Generation ballistic nylon Parka.

ations" that would put the average Paranoia is definitely back in style self on the bonnet fails, it's time to to make it anything like portable

fice are sady lacking, however, when cation demanded by those whose tank to shame: it's made from high

RULE NUMBER FIVE: If it's fast we like it - and that, of course, means transport. Tool for the rule: if throwing your-

humour.

PASCAL WYSE 01276 679558

CHECK IT OUT

CHRISTMAS SURVIVAL BUYS

UNFORTUNATELY, IT is rarely just geese that get fat and fed up over the festive season. Truth is, a week of wild nights, serious gorging and a few too many glasses of festive cheer contribute to hangover hell for all but the most clued-up of party kittens. The good news is that you can minimise the damage without sacrificing the seasonal pleasures with The Independent's tips for surviving Christmas.

The first festive rule is to be discerning when sleeping around. If you're playing away from home, remember to take a Roly Poly™ bed with you to ensure a proper night's sleep. Named because of its Swiss-roll shape, the single cotton futon is lightweight, compact and a reasonable £24.95 - and it 100ml (01932 269921 for stockzips up into an easily carried shape with handles. New this month, it's available in navy, ylang this is the perfect quick fix green, terracotta or petrol blue from The Futon Company (0171-978 4498 for stockists).

Dress to impress and keep cosy too with red, magenta and me pyjamas, £60 by Abraham & Thakore (from the Conran Shop, 0171-589 7401) and be sure to insist on a new Comforel® pillow. mers Nancy Ganz (0115 9795796). jamas, unfurl your new futon, Made by DuPont, they cost from The 15 pieces range from Hi-Cut and dream about the next party.



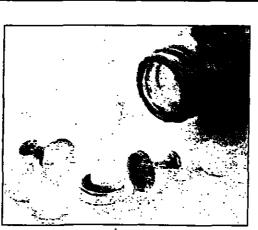
£15 and are available at Marks & Spencer and major department stores. The cluster-fibre filling is designed to support your head throughout the night.

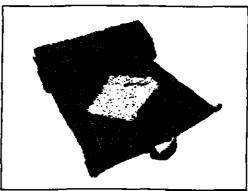
Another important point is to keep up appearances, however rough you feel. If you've overdone it the night before, get yourself back in the mood with Cariad Aromatherapy party blend, £5.95 for ists). With clary sage, bergamot, to wake you up and leave your skin feeling peachy. Hide any morning after horrors with Estée Lauder's Minute Makeup, a quick-to-apply cream foundation stick that costs £21 (0800 525501 for stockists); and supportive but sexy underwear from BodySlimbriefs (£16) to the Hourglass Body Dress (£26).

Finally, fortify the soul with a glass or two of Rosemount Estate's fruity 1997 Shiraz (£6.99 from major supermarkets and off-licences) and put on some cheery Christmas tunes. The Cool Yule CD from Hallmark costs a jazzy £2.99 (0181-207 6207

for stockists). And, you should always make sure you have a little something up your sleeve for times of emergency. Shirt-wearers shouldn't leave home without some Aspirin Cufflinks, £32.95 from Saville-Edells (0171-351 1221) - if you feel a headache coming on, relief is close to hand.

If it all goes horribly wrong, invest in an urban-survival hangover kit, £9.95 from Farmacia (0171-831 0830). This includes high-strength vitamin C tablets, hopscotch bitters to soothe the liver, and a pot of healing lip balm. Or recover lolling in the hath with Whittard's Eye Bag Tea, £2.50 (0800 525092 for nearest store): filled with flowers and camomile for tired, over-partied eyes. Then jump into your new py-





Seasonal savers (clockwise from top right): aspirin cufflinks, £32.95 from Sav-ille-Edells; Roly Poly™, £24.95 from The Futon Company, and Abraham & Thakore pyiamas. £60 from a selection at the Conran Shop; Eye Bag Tea, \$2.50 from Whittard

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IF I WIN THE LOTTERY TONIGHT...

LEONARD SLATKIN, CONDUCTOR

THE FIRST thing I'd do if I suddenly won the lottery would be to put an amount of money away for my four-anda-half-year-old son's education. Then I would try to secure a way of funding more arts education in all public schools in the United States, because I think it's one of the great weaknesses in the system over there at the moment.

Young people in the public sector do not receive as much education in music. painting and drama as they used to, because we have cut the funding for them in favour of science and mathematics. This is despite the fact that exposure to the arts at a young age improves their scores in other subjects. The program would start as soon as children started school and part of the money would have to go towards training people to teach properly.



In a similar vein, we need to make sure the US has more exposure to the higher forms of culture. Unlike countries such as the UK, France and Germany, the States does not have that many options for exposure to great drama and music on radio or television. For some reason, it's just not the way we operate, even though we used to have it all the time.

I'd also buy myself a plane. If I bought a little jet I wouldn't be subject to the ridiculous timetables of the

airlines which never fly when I need them to. I hate flying. In fact, I'm petrified of flying. I don't like getting on airplanes at all but if I'm going to do it, I might as well be in my own plane. I certainly wouldn't quit

what I'm doing now. So few people get the chance to do what I do. But perhaps I could be a little more exclusive in what I chose to do, as I wouldn't have to think about how much money I was earning.

Leonard Slatkin is principal guest conductor with the Philharmonia Orchestra and launches Part I of Czech Connections" at the Bedford Corn Exchange, tonight (01234 269 519). "Discovering Music With Leonard Slatkin" is on BBC Radio 3 at 6pm daily from Monday to 1 January.

INTERVIEW BY DIONA GREGORY After August, January is the boom time for buying new cars. Gavin Green picks the best of the bunch, whatever your budget

New cars for a new year: your guide to the class of 1999

he annual August plate-change may be over, much to the relief of the very people who first requested it (the car industry). January, however, remains a key month for car-buying. After all, the next best thing to a new letter on the plate is a new year on the registration documents. Accordingly, high-street stores shouldn't be the only places with queues of eager buyers lining up after Christmas. The car dealers, who need a bit of New Year cheering up, should also be doing very nicely. But where to spend your money? Here's our guide to the best new cars for the new year.

City cars: Go to the Continent and order one of the new Mercedes-Benz Smart cars (about £7,000), the most cleverly conceived city car ever. UK sales aren't scheduled until 2000, at the earliest. Funky to look at, and a buzz to drive, the new Smart is more than a foot shorter than a Mini, so it's a cinch to park. It is also beautifully built. Mind you, for long motorway dashes or four-up family motoring you'll need something bigger. If you don't fancy shopping abroad, go for a Fiat Seicento (from £6,495)

which, unlike the Smart, has back seats. Fiesta-class superminis: The French have given us a brace of good cars in this class this year - the (Coventry-built) Peugeot 206 (from £8,945), and the new Renault Clio (from £8,350). The Peugeot is roomier and more fun to drive. The only drawback is the poor driving position for big-footed men. Also recommended is the Volkswagen Polo (from £8,290), but avoid the flaccid 1-litre models.

 $\textbf{Golf-sized hatchbacks:} \ The \ new \ Ford$ Focus (from £12,850), Europe's Car of the Year, has raised the stakes so high in this sector that rivals must be wondering what to do to catch up. It's superb to drive, economical, roomy and stylish. But a Volks-wagen Golf (from £12,250) is better made, and feels a classier car inside.

Mondeo-sized family cars: The Volkswagen Passat (from £15,460) is the pick of the bunch. The best engine options are either the 1.8-litre 20-valve petrol motor, or the superbly economical 1.9-litre turbo-diesel. Also recommended: the new Honda Accord (from £15,295), a car of almost seamless competence, if bland.

Sporty saloons: The BMW 3-series (from £19,745), which was revised this year. is the pick. It is such a superbly rounded



Leading the pack: (above) Mercedes S-class 500; (top right) Ford Focus; (bottom right) Peugeot 206

car, responsive to drive, beautifully made and so tangibly well engineered. As with all BMWs, go for a six-cylinder model: it is one of the world's finest engines. The graceful Alfa 156 (from £17,971) runs the BMW close but, ultimately, lacks the depth

Big cars: The BMW 5-series (from 224,405) is probably the pick, thanks to its build quality, driver appeal and thorough engineering. Stick to the sixes: don't bother about the pricy V8. The new Alfa 166, coming in late January (from £22,500) is also

worth a glance. The new Jaguar S-type (from model - superbly practical fold-down hood, about £28,000) may look a bit retro for some tastes, but the early word is that it drives superbly. It goes on sale in late March.

Library cars: The new Mercedes S-class (from £43,640) hits Britain in early March. It is superb, probably the most completely engineered car that has ever been launched. The Jaguar XJ8 (from £35,205) is older and less polished, but more charming, and its V8 engine is supremely refined.

Sports cars: The new Mazda MX-5

great to drive and brilliant value, helped more by its low depreciation. Also recommended: the Lotus Elise (£21,100). The quality is a bit suspect, but the driving experience is unmatched.

Supercars: The Subaru Impreza Turbo four-wheel drive (from £19,715) is the most supremely capable fast car in the world, and the quickest for gobbling up those long and winding back roads. It is also an incredibly easy car to drive. But it does look carry-over styling, you'd never know it. The (from £15,520) is even better than the old a bit dull. If you fancy cutting a bit more new Disco is miles better than its roly-poly

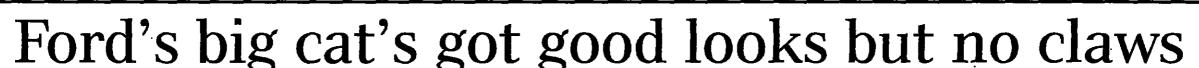
of a dash, go for the touch more pricy Ferrari 550 Maranello (£149,701).

Estates: The world's best, money-noobject estate car is the Mercedes E-class wagon (from £27.845) - roomy, beautifully wrought and good to drive. If you can't afford almost 30 grand, then a Volkswagen Passat (from £16,410) is very nearly as good.

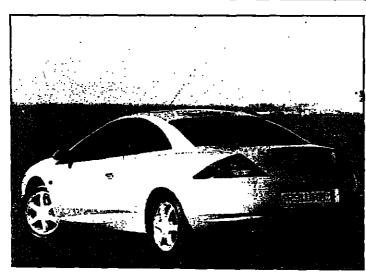
4x4s: Britain's favourite off-roader, the Land Rover Discovery (from £25,520), has been completely revised, although, with its

predecessor. Buy the turbo-diesel: the V8 petrol model's thirst for fuel will very soon bankrupt you. If competent on-road behaviour is what you really, really want, and you think a 4x4 would spice up your life, then get yourself a Mercedes M-class (from £31,780). If that's too big, go for the Land Rover Freelander (from £16,570), cool and sporty.

People carrier: The new Renault Espace (from £19,670) is king, due to fantastic versatility. If five seats are enough, the Renault Mégane Scenic (from £12,995) is fine value, practical and good to drive.



The Cougar has a great ad (Dennis Hopper reliving Easy Rider) and eye-catching styling. But how does it drive? By Roger Bell



FIRST THERE was the Ford Capri, there's nothing wrong with that, more powerful opposition. The lock brakes and traction control the car (as the admen insisted) you given the Mondeo's qualities.

140mph V6 is no sluggard, but it which protect against wheelspin always promised yourself. It sold briskly, wore out three suits of clothes, and made pots of money. coupé until 1994, when the US-built Vauxhall's pretty Calibra. It wasn't a bad car, the Probe, but it wasn't an especially memorable one, either. It

late Sixties. Just as the rear-drive Capri was a dressed-up Cortina, so Capri was a dressed-up Cortina, so
Dynamically, the range-topping the Cougar, mid-Atlantic in style and
2.5 V6 (there is also a 2.0 "four"), flavour, is a Mondeo in drag. And struggles to make the grade against

Ford's bold "new edge" design, first seen in the Ka, later adopted for the Puma (Cougar's kid brother) and After its demise, Ford did without a the mainstream Focus, well suited the adventurous Cougar. A coupe Probe was imported to despatch without style is a coupé without point. However, "new edge" - think of it as definition by intersecting arcs - does tend to polarise opinions, so didn't capture the mood of the nation the Cougar is not to everyone's as the Capri had done. Serious liking. Aggressively faced and curidrivers spurned it (as they did the ously scalloped, it has head-turning now defunct Calibra). Sales bombed. presence, but not the breathtaking Now we have the Cougar - Ford's elegance of Peugeot's 406 coupe third middleweight coupe since the one of several rivals that are not going to make it easy for the Cougar.

140mph V6 is no sluggard, but it which protect against wheelspin sounds more exciting than it feels and skids. Standard equipment when accelerating. Not that there is includes two airbags, leather anything mild-mannered about the upholstery, air-conditioning (or sunsmooth, wailing engine's delivery best exploited by indulgent use of a slick gearchange. What the hefty Cougar needs (and will probably get) is the Mondeo ST200's more power-Cougar needs (and will probably get) is the Mondeo ST200's more powerful 200bhp engine. But even with powered front seats that don't the present 168bhp screamer, econ-

the performance. After the Focus that I drove the same day, the Cougar's handling and spark of genius which distinguishes steering felt a bit remote and life- the cheaper Focus, Ford's new less. Competent yes, uplifting no. middleweight coupé is, if not a mem-Generous tyres push up cornering orable driving experience, at least

roof) alloy wheels and cruise control.

The 2.5 V6 wants for little in the way of kit. By coupé standards, it is support as well as they should, omy is indifferent if you exploit bouquets for a fully adjustable steering wheel and stylish dash.

While the Cougar may lack that powers and safety margins - an enjoyable means of transport. reinforced by sophisticated anti- And boy, do the neighbours notice.

SPECIFICATIONS

FORD COUGAR 2.5 V6 Price: £21,000 Engine: 2544cc, six cylinders, 24 valves, 168bhp at 6250rpm Transmission: five-speed man-ual gearbox, front-wheel drive Performance: 140mph, 0-60 in

RIVALS

Alfa Romeo GTV 3.0 V6: £27,795. Striking looks, great engine, faster than Ford. A gem. Fiat Coupe 2.0 20V Turbo: £22,825. Testosterone on a budget. Stonking performance, great to drive, striking looks.

a File D

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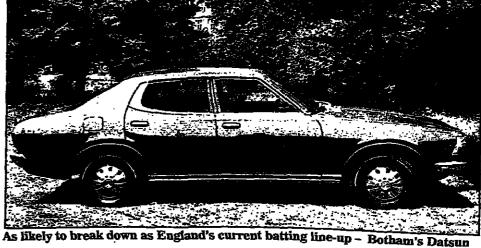
Not a nice one, Datsun

I HAVE had plenty of pretty rum jalopies, especially when I was a kid. Most of them were rusty, slow and just plain unreliable. But by far the worst of them all was a really horrible Datsun.

Now this wasn't an ordinary saloon like a Sunny, but a 180 SSS fastback. Twenty years ago it was still regarded as a stylish coupé, and that may be why I bought it, but now I have my doubts. The colour scheme wasn't up to very much, with custard-yellow paintwork and a black vinyl roof.

Apart from looking terrible, its reputation for reliability was equally had. Everything that could go wrong with that car did go wrong. I don't know where to start, or stop, with the catalogue of mechanical failures - except to say that if you name a part I probably paid to have it replaced - cylinder head, suspension, brakes. steering, electrics, starter,

alternator, radiator... I won't go on. In fact, I seem to remember that the radiator matches. In total I owned that was probably the most common cause of upsets, springing a leak, then boiling over and getting me into even more trouble.



That trouble usually involved morning and then ran for any being broken down somewhere on the A1. I lost count of the number of times that my father-

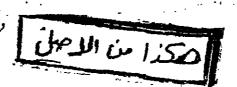
in-law came out and rescued me from the roadside. It made me miss appointments, meals – although luckily not cricket car for three months and I got no more than four days of strife-

length of time, I would be in a state of extreme shock. It got to the point where if someone had offered me a fiver to take that Datsun away. I'd have pulled their arm off.

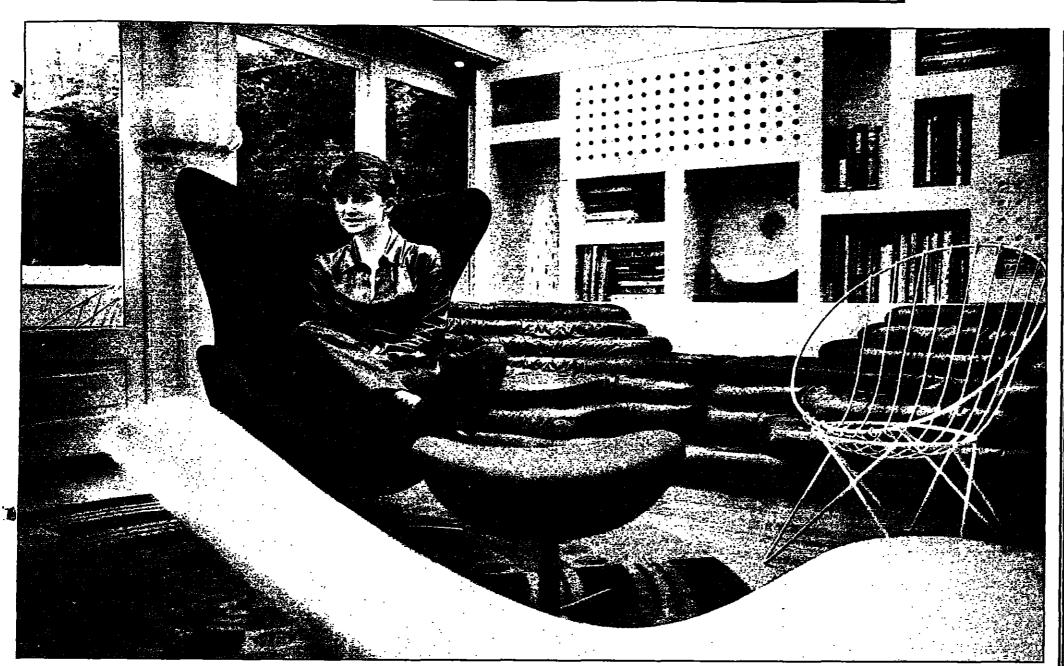
It cost me a fortune to run, without actually running any-where at all. When it did work it was surprisingly quick and free motoring out of it. In fact comfortable; otherwise it was Sky Sports. He u if it did start first time in the mostly stationary and a com-

plete pain. I don't know what happened to that Datsun and I don't actually care. With any luck it has been reconstituted into something more useful -like a can of baked beans.

lan Botham, the former England cricket captain, is commentating on England's Ashes tour in Australia for Sky Sports. He was talking to



PROPERTY



Buy back to the future

The passion for all things Sixties is slowly moving into the property market. By Penny Jackson

t the moment, just about anything from the Sixties is snapped up. Lamps, chairs, sofas and rugs are displayed with new-found dmiration anywhere from Edwardian semis to loft apartments. Anywhere, that is, but a Sixties house. On a scale of trendiness, the marker hovers ery close to zero when it comes to the

Box-like, functional and unloved, they are often a second best for buyers who want a particular location, but cannot afford older properties. The principles of the modern movement of bringing light into buildings and freeing up the internal space were distorted by the push to build as many homes as quickly and cheaply as possible. Yet the good homes of the time are unerringly close to what

many buyers are looking for today.

This is an irony not lost on Jane Coldins (above), who loves all things Sixties. Hers is no sudden conversion – her loyalty has been unswerving through chintz, Victoriana and Conran chic. "Ten years ago, people would walk into my house and admire it, but they wouldn't feel happy with it for themselves. Now they love it and buy anything they can."

Collins's faith is evident from her London shop, Sixty 6. Even though contemporary designers produce good copies of Sixties furniture, people want something original. "Otherwise their homes look like catalogues. Most lighting was much better made 30 years ago."

So how many take their treasures, like the newly arrived white-plastic-and-steel swivel chair, back to a Sixties setting? As sure it will happen. No one has set a trend yet. I would much rather live in a cube than something mock-Georgian."

The features of a period property so closely conform to what many people regard as the perfect family house that they could never imagine living elsewhere. Until a year ago, Elizabeth Savell would have rejected a Sixties house out of hand. But she and her family wanted to live in Dulwich, south-east London, and they needed a garage. "At first we thought it would be a wrench moving from an older place, but we really enjoy living here. We use the whole house in a way we never did before, and it feels roomier than it really is. It's surprising how many people say they had never thought of looking at something like this, but now think it is a good idea.

She is particularly struck by the enormous amount of well-thought-out storage space - a design feature of the time - and by how light it is. "We have a lot of windows and the way the rooms are laid out gives an impression of space." Their furniture didn't adapt quite as easily, though. "We got rid of some pieces, and found

'I am sure it will happen. No one has set a trend yet. I would much rather live in a cube than something mock-Georgian'

ourselves looking at things we never would have dreamt of buying before."

Avril Campbell, from Bushells, the estate agents, is used to people somewhat grudgingly looking at Sixties homes. Some will refuse to consider anything later than turn-of-the-century, and re-

in the Sixties, while others are won over by position, price and, more often than not, the garage. "They may be able to get a four-bedroom detached house with a double garage for around £350,000, which is good for the area. They then have more money to spend on the house and end up having made a fair saving."

House. A developer has opened up virtually the whole bungalow using glass doors and screens. Purple timber decking has been used in the courtyard garden. Square Foot, the developers, have moved as far away as possible from the granny image of the bungalow, and used a combination of white walls, spot lighting and wood flooring to attract a new

kind of buyer. In Blackheath, the Sixties-built Span homes, which were considered a cut above many of their ilk, have always been in demand. They tend to have large openplan ground floors, with screens to make the space flexible, and were intended as good, affordable housing. That is still the case today, according to Mark Epps of Winkworth. It is a way of a getting a 0171-403 3166. Sixty 6, 66 Marylebone

best locations in Blackheath, "Some people who are horrified by them at first, grow to really like them. It is a way of getting on to the estate for as little as £140,000

Alice Moro is selling a house originally designed by her father Peter Moro. an architect, on the same estate. Most in-On their books at present is the unlikely object of a great deal of attention: already living in a modern house, who apliving space. It has five bedrooms and a three-quarter-acre garden. "I get the feeling that people are fed up with harking back to the past. They want space, and they are no longer so frightened of modern houses. The British have a peculiar dislike of functionalism."

> The house, priced between £650,000 and £700,000, is listed. It is not likely to appeal to those who cannot live without architraves and ceiling roses, but it does knock on the head the notion that exposing brickwork and doing without internal walls is an exclusively Nineties trend. It may also be safer than taking walls out of old houses.

Bushells: 0181-299 1722. Moro house: serve a special horror for anything built foothold on the Cator Estate, one of the High Street. London W1: 0171-224 6066

STEPPING STONES

SEARCH FOR A SMALLHOLDING



COLIN AND Sue Cuthbert have bought five properties since 1979. They now own

a five-acre smallholding in Suffolk. Most of us have vague aspirations as to where we want to live and some eventually get there. But Sue and Colin say: "From the start we had one aim - to own our own smallholding."

The path was not easy. Sue had stopped work to have children and Colin's work was lowly paid, but they were determined to slowly climb the property ladder: "We knew we had to work hard and live cheaply to achieve our aim."

Their first step was a two-bedroom end of terrace in the market town of Stowmarket, bought for £8,000 in 1979. It was close to Sue's job in the library, and Colin travelled by moped to his council depot. Two years later, they sold "by some miracle" for £14,000 when prices peaked.

In 1981 they bought a three-bedroom terrace for £16,000 and Sue stayed at home to look after their daughter. Their son's arrival prompted a search for "somewhere with a bit more garden" and in 1984 they sold for £20,000. They heard about a timber-framed house on offer at £10,000, which had a council closing order on it. Some buyers may have balked at the work required but Sue and Colin were undeterred: "We went for it even though it meant living in a caravan for a year."

The family moved in to the house in 1985. Was this their ideal home? "We hated it! It was dark and gloomy and we moved as soon as we could."

They stayed until 1986, to avoid repaying the grant, but quickly sold for £40,000. By now they had enough for a smallholding, but were limited in area by Colin's work so plumped for a threebedroom bungalow in half an acre, which cost £42,000. They added an extension for their third child and were settled until they sold for £71,000 in 1991.

They then decided to take stock and rent while looking for their life-long dream: "We were getting older, so it was now or never." In 1992 "stretching our budget almost to breaking point", they bought a five-acre smallholding in Suffolk for £85,000: "We got it cheaply as it was run down, overgrown and needed work."

The Cuthberts now lead a semisufficient lifestyle, keeping pigs, goats. and chickens, and growing their food. with hard work, DIY and taking chances anyone can own their ideal home." GINETTA VENDRICKAS

THOSE MOVES IN BRIEF 1979 - bought two-bedroom house for £8,000, sold for £14,000. 1981 - bought three-bedroom terrace end for £16,000, sold for £20,000. 1984 - bought timber frame for £10,000 (plus £10,000 grant) sold for £40,000. 1986 - bought bungalow for £42,000, sold for £71,000 in 1991. 1992 - bought smallholding for £85,000.

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now worth over £130,000

As much art as architecture

Art Deco houses are back in fashion, but many have been 'modernised' and are now hard to find. By Fiona Brandhorst

but when Jane and Andrew Fryer viewed a Thirties "cruise-liner style" suse perched on one of the highest points in London, they were buzzing with enthusiasm. It wasn't just the views from the south London vantage point (on a clear day, Windsor Castle, about 40 miles away, is visible), the house itself was a fine, if neglected, example of Modernist architecture, with its flat roof, white walls and metal railings.

This style of house is enjoying a revival. The problem is finding one that hasn't been aesthetically ruined inside and out - "modernising" al-most always includes double-glazing and sometimes pitched roofs. However, fine examples can still be found. An estate agent, Nick Staton, recently sold the singer Paul Young's Art Deco home in north London for more than £1m. The house is a copy of one by Frank Lloyd Wright.

"People are prepared to pay a premium for a house like this, although it's a specialised market and doesn't

Daveryone," says Mr Staton. step inside the gateway brings you says. The integral garage had been

exotic architectural palms and shrubs, bordered by red-and-whitestriped lifebelts, I had the distinct feeling I'd left my luggage behind.

"We would still have wanted it without the views," says Jane, who along with Andrew, loved the idea of "living-quarters" on the first floor and the way the light floods into every room from curved windows.

"Andrew's only misgiving was the amount of work that was needed," Jane says. Their surveyor thought that around £9,000 would "see it straight". That was seven years ago; in fact the Fryers have spent nearer £100,000 on renovation and decoration. "There was no cavity insulation," says Jane, "and every room had to be thermally lined and replastered."

Having previously renovated a large Victorian house, Andrew had honed his DIY skills and knew his limitations. Yet leaving the rewiring, plumbing and roofing to the trades-

men was frustrating. Most of them had never worked Jane Fryer has named their on a house like this and didn't know house Welcome Aboard, and one what they were up against." Andrew

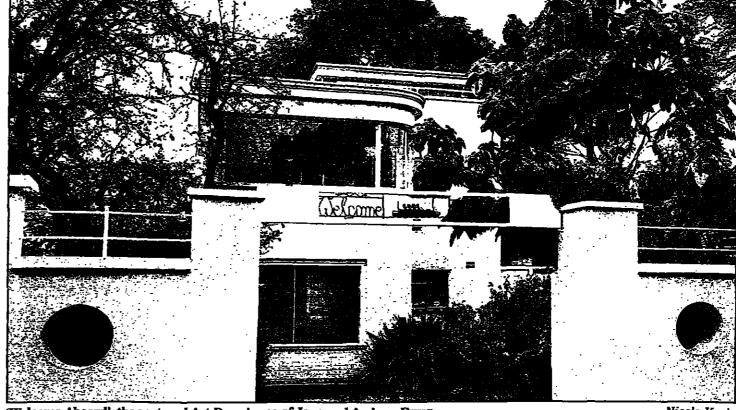
THERE CAN'T be many houses that make you feel "on top of the world" into a nautical fantasy. As I walked half-converted into a room but an though the pebbled garden full of asbestos ceiling still had to be removed. "It was just me and a face mask," Andrew adds.

The house was built in 1934 and designed by architects whose work included Ealing Film Studios and the White House Hotel in Regent's Park. Roy Scotchbrook, an estate agent

who specialises in unusual property, has sold the four-bedroom house three times in the last 20 years. "This style of house has become popular only in the last few years, and was a bit tatty when the Fryers bought it." It seems the expensive renovations have paid off. Jane and Andrew paid £175,000 for it in 1991 and it is now valued at £350,000.

"We haven't been totally purist with the decorations," Andrew says, "but there is an empathy with the period." Jane's collection of ceramics from the Twenties and Thirties are displayed simply, against white walls. The main bathroom is original Art Deco, with classic green-and-

black tiling and chrome accessories. Strips of miniature lights stud the steps of the oak-stripped staircase leading to the first floor. "It's our



'Welcome Aboard', the restored Art Deco home of Jane and Andrew Fryer

house to be completed, a few months ago. "We couldn't recreate a Thirties kitchen," adds Jane. "It would have been quite ugly. The original tiles were in a terrible condition and just had to go." Instead, Jane chose a ship-shape, steel galley kitchen, totally blowing her budget. "Because it doesn't lead out to the garden, we've made the most of the large balcony across the hallway. It's sunny and secluded, and you get the views.

Wooden decking would finish it off."

"People have just found us things," Andrew muses. Railing-lights outside the house and a few portholes here and there add to the period ambience. A glass door-panel etched with the bow of a steamer came from a hotel. And a painting of the Queen Mary came from the lounge bar of a pub in the Isle of Wight.

Jane likes to escape to her favourite part of the house - the rooftop studio and terrace.

"In summer I drape towels Hollywood touch." Jane says. The Kriends in the Art Deco business around and imagine the heat smog beyon. It was bought in poor repair over London is where the beach is.

And you couldn't have a better view when you're doing the ironing."

Surely the ultimate complement to your hard graft is a stream of people wanting to buy your house. We often have cards through the door asking us if we want to sell. One couple offered us cash. It's very flattering, but we're not selling."

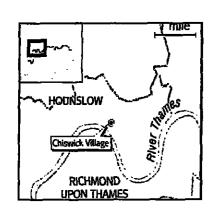
Cash purchasers would be more than welcome at Harrods Estates, which is selling the Art Deco Burgh Island Hotel, near Salcombe in

Bea Porter in 1986 and restoration is now complete, including the Palm Court cocktail bar frequented by Edward VIII and Mrs Simpson, Agatha Christie and Noel Coward. If you haven't yet planned your Millennium party, for around £2.5m you'll get the hotel. Burgh Island itself and the local pub The Pilchards Inn. Martini cocktail, anyone?

Statons, 0181-449 3383; Scotchbrooks 0181-699 0841; Christie & Co, 01392 259371; www.worldcollectors

HOT SPOT CHISWICK VILLAGE, WEST LONDON

Where a mall is not a mall, and a village not a village



hiswick Village is in Chiswick That much is clear and indisputable. So is Chiswick Mall. But Chiswick Village is not a village, and Chiswick Mall is not a shopping centre. Even Chiswick's reputation as a haven for well-heeled families isn't quite what it seems.

Properties in this desirable part of west London do command stiff prices, as exemplified by the seven-figure riverside homes along Chiswick Mall. But affordable flats for singles or sharers are also available, not least in Chiswick Village, which is the name both of a 280-apartment complex spread over 15 blocks and the circular (in fact, A-shaped) road that lies in front of them.

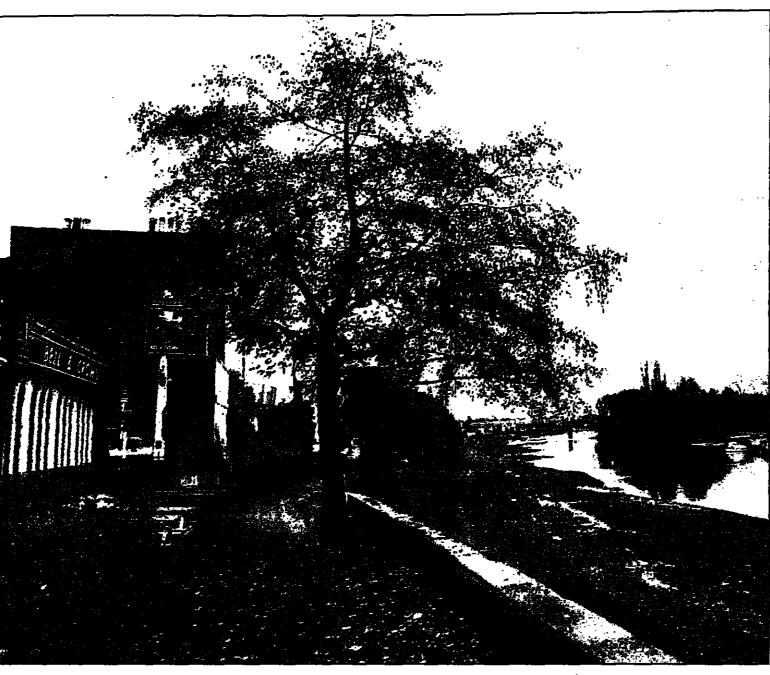
Chiswick Viliage looks very much like a council estate but, since this is Chiswick, even that is illusory. The estate is and always has been privately owned and was fairly upmarket at one time. A few years ago, the tenants started proceedings to buy the freehold collectively. Although ultimately successful, this was only after being enmeshed in complex, costly and bitter legal skirmishes. The tenants and their property values have only recentiv started to recover.

We went through an absolute horror of dirty, lengthy legal battles against two freeholders, but we won," says Pat Salt, who has lived in Chiswick Village for eight years with her husband and two children.

Prices plummeted: "No one would lend while we were in court, and if you wanted to buy, you had to have cash," says Ms Salt. Cash-buyers tend to be investors buying to let, and in terms roads. The position is great." Heating of commitment to the property, Ms Salt and hot water are communal and regrets that the percentage of owner-

occupiers isn't higher. During the enfranchisement proceedings, the owners had succeeded in setting groups of tenants against one another, and animosity continued even after the solicitors had finally packed their briefcases for good. "Now, prices are rising, and the old villagey spirit is slowly coming

back," says Ms Salt. "Bringing up children here was great. They could safely play on the green in front," says Ms Salt. "We have trains on both sides and a motorway on one, but you do get used to the



With much of it running beside the river. Chiswick is a desirable area - but not all its properties are priced out of reach - Nicola Kartz'

noise." And as far as transport is concerned, it is pretty convenient: "We are near Gunnersbury station and the M4 and North and South Circular most flats have balconies overlooking

Chiswick Village's developer also built the so-called three Bs - Beverly, Beaumont, and Belgrave Courts which are closer to Chiswick's high

road, and more expensive. David Bell, of Winkworth estate agents, notes that since Chiswick VIIlage's enfranchisement, "the price gap has been narrowing, but," he adds, "if the three Bs were to enfranchise, prices would spurt up. And Chiswick Village has lower service

ROBERT LIEBMAN

LOWDOWN

Transport: Chiswick Park serves the Ealing Broadway branch of the District Line, and Gunnersbury serves the Richmond branch and the North London Line. Buses link Chiswick with Hammersmith, Hounslow

and Richmond. Prices: A reasonable two-bed flat in Chiswick Village sells for about £115,000, and for £140,000 in the three Bs. "Some flats in the three courts have a reception room and a separate dining room," says Winkworth's Bell. In Chiswick Village, flats needing work and

lacking balconies can sell closer to £100,000. Going to Court Again:

Other affordable blocks of flats in Chiswick include Dewsbury Court, Watchfield Court, Sutton Court and Arlington Park Mansions. Examine room size and, with ground floor flats in the three Bs, ask questions about the hot water pipes below the floor. It's Your Shout: Pubs, cafés and restaurants on Strand on the Green are nearby. Council Tax: Hounslow's Band A

is £487 and Band H is £ 1,460.

Taking the Waters: Chiswick Village used to have a pool, and the three Bs still have a communal small outdoor pool. Otherwise it's Edensor Road or Fountains Leisure in Brentford. Whistler's Roundabout Here: Hogarth and Whistler both rest in the cemetery near the Hogarth Roundabout.

Estate Agents: Foxious (0181-996 6000); John Spencer (0181-995 4321); Sworn & Co (0181-995 3076); Townsend Tyser Greenwood (0181-994 7022); Whitman & Co (0181-747 8800).

THREE TO VIEW

FOR UNDER £200,000



THE OLD Post Office in Norton In Hales, near Market Drayton in Shropshire, is a three-bedroom traditional house in one of the county's best-kept villages. Surrounded by gardens, the creeper-clad property

has a well-proportioned sitting room with sash windows and brick open fireplace and hearth. There's a separate dining room, breakfast room and 11'6" by 115" kitchen with fitted units and built-in oven and hob. There are also three large store rooms on the ground floor. Outside, the house has shutters to the first floor windows and pretty barge boarding. Price £180,000, details from GA 01630 6582



WYVERNE, IN Broxted near Great Dummow in Essex is a modern detached three-bedroom house with rural views at the back, towards the village church. Built in 1973, and recently extended, it had two reception rooms, dining room and separate kitchen

The bedrooms have built in wardrobe cupboards and there is a separate shower room and bathroom. On the second floor, is a 11'6" by 6'5" study with fitted desk top and drawers, and an en suite loo. In the 114' garden there's a tandem double garage, lawns, shed and ornamental pond with water lilies. Price £180,000, details from Trembath Welch 01371 872117



THIS 18TH-century Grade II listed house is in Canterbury and offers views over the Cathedral. It has previously been both a pub and a shop. Now a private, four-bedroom house, number 46 Broad Street is within easy walking distance of the city centre. Added to that, it has a 87ft walled garden and a garage.

The three-storey house has been partially improved, including a new roof just over 10 years ago. and it has a new 22ft kitchen and conservatory. The 31ft reception room has built-in shelves and double doors leading outside. There is another drawing room on the first floor. The price is £185,000 and details are available from Cluttons Daniel Smith 01277 457441. ROSALIND RUSSELL

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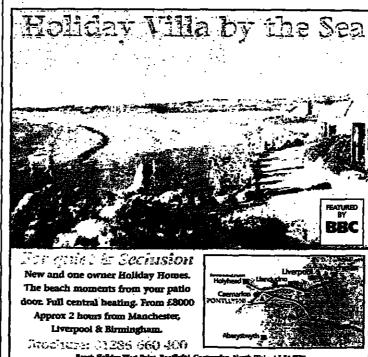
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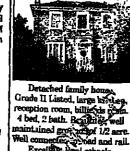
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